

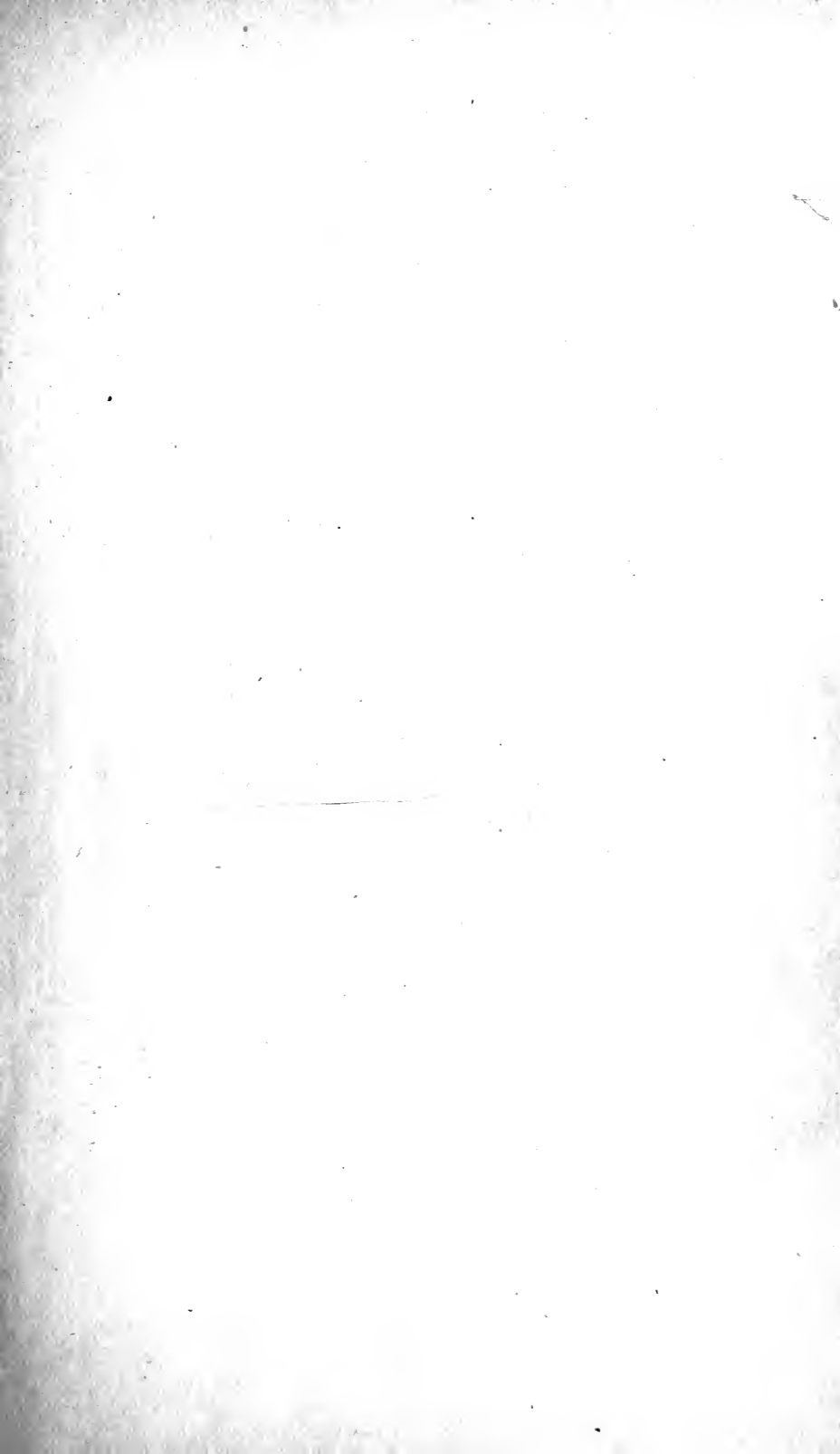
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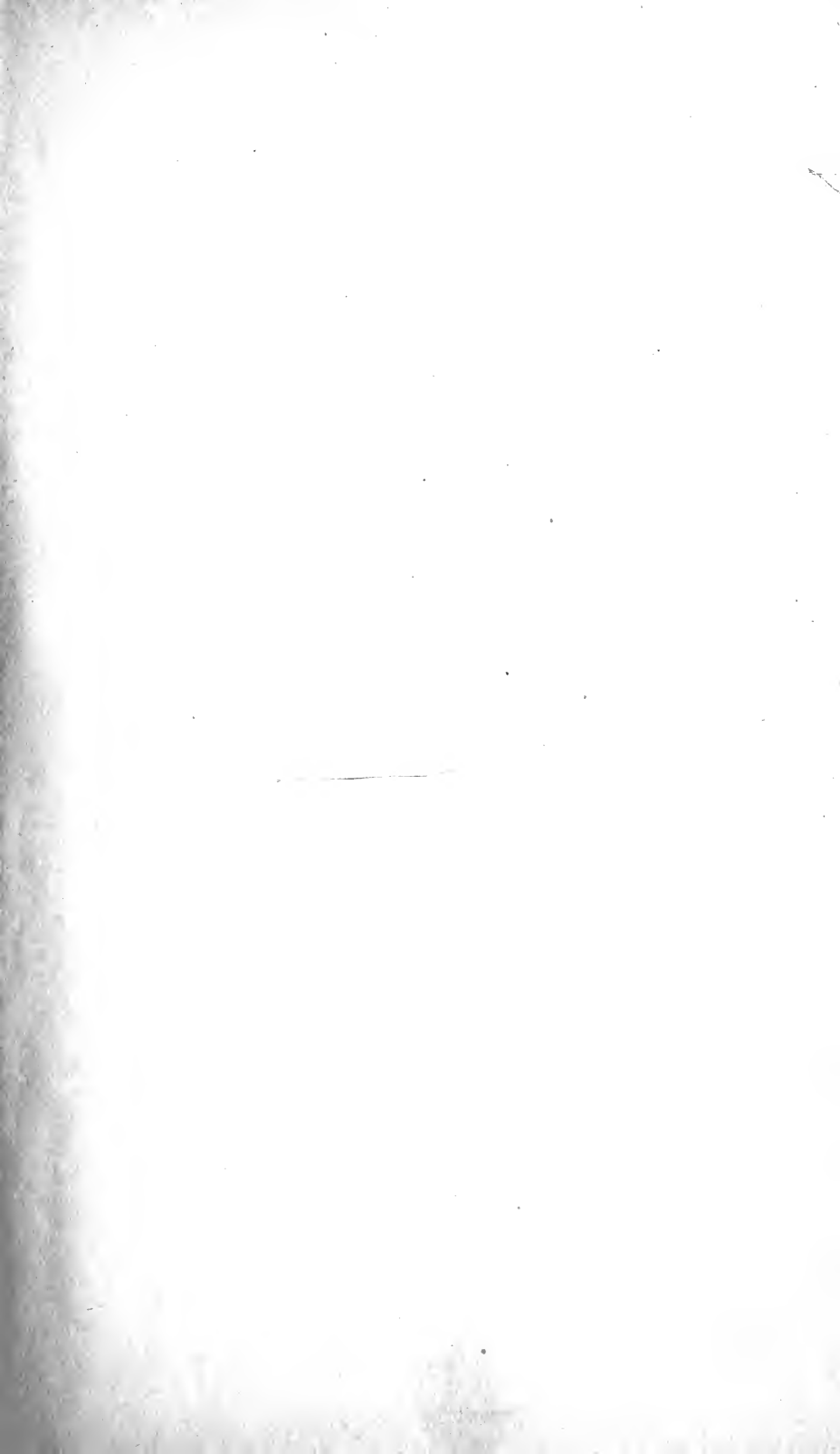
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✧ SONGS AND SONNETS  
AND OTHER POEMS BY  
MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN



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# SONGS AND HYMNS



## SONGS AND HYMNS.

### *THE OLD VIOLIN.*



HOUGH tuneless, stringless, it lies  
there in dust,

Like some great thought on a forgotten  
page;

The soul of music cannot fade or rust—

The voice within it stronger grows with  
age;

Its strings and bow are only trifling things—

A master-touch!—its sweet soul wakes and  
sings.

*LIKE A LILAC.*

LIKE a lilac in the spring  
Is my love, my lady-love;  
Purple-white, the lilacs fling  
Scented blossoms from above:  
So my love, my lady-love,  
Throws soft glances on my heart;  
Ah, my dainty lady-love,  
Every glance is Cupid's dart.

Like a pansy in the spring  
Is my love, my lady-love;  
For her velvet eyes oft bring  
Golden fancies from above:  
Ah, my heart is pansy-bound  
By those eyes so tender-true;



Balmy heartsease have I found,

Dainty lady-love, in you.

Like the changeful month of spring

Is my love, my lady-love;

Sunshine comes and glad birds sing,

Then a rain-cloud floats above:

So your moods change with the wind,


Like the colors of the dove,

All the sweeter, to my mind;

For the changes, lady-love.

---

*AMONG THE REEDS.*

MONG the reeds, beside a singing  
fountain

Silenus sat, when life was young and gay,  
And piped until the echoes from the mountain  
Awoke the birds as if at break of day.

The fount is dry, and no more old Silenus  
Makes singing sweet re-echo on the shore.  
Great Pan is dead ; the exiled fauns have  
seen us

Walk with bowed heads, where blithe  
they danced before.

*A DUET IN WINTER.*



OME, close your eyes and let us dream  
together

That June-time's glow is here;  
See not the coming of the snow's first feather,  
Hear not the wind's voice drear.

Oh, let's float back to where the roses tremble,  
And breezes lift your hair;  
And these pink asters,—do they not resemble  
The climbing roses there?

You will not dream? How, then, can you  
remember

The month that bore our love,  
Or taste its sweetness in this dark December,  
All gloom the mistress of?

The asters faint are but the ghosts of roses  
    (Hold, see them not, I meant),  
And no fern-frond in all the land uncloses;  
    The summer's gold is spent.

How can we keep the past and drink its  
    sweetness,  
How walk in love's dear ways,  
If in this winter-cold and incompleteness  
    We dream not of June days?

Love is, you say, no child of change and  
    season,—  
He is our heart's desire;  
Dreams will not keep him: take a woman's  
    reason,  
And make a warmer fire.

*MANY IN ONE.*



O the red and the white and the blue,  
here's a health!

To the old and the young and the man  
that's to be,

Not fame will I wish them or plenty of wealth,  
Nor peace without honor, nor quiet that's  
not free

To the North, to the South, to the East, to  
the West,

To the blue and the gray,—they're all one  
color now,

To the poor men that work and the rich men  
that rest;

To the men of the pen and the men of the  
plow!

Here's a health to them all, from wherever  
they come!

May they learn one short lesson by head  
and by heart,—

That the figures are weak till they make up a  
sum,—

That the whole is a whole and a part is  
a part,—

The red and the white and the blue are but  
One,

And the flags of all nations were dipped  
in the sea

When their children set face to the westering  
sun,—

No Teuton, no Celt,—all Americans we.

*FROM THE GRAVE.*



EEP not for me, O tender heart!

Thou know'st my wish that all thy part

In life should be a happy way

As sunlit as a summer day.

Weep not for me!

In life thy tears were bitter drops,

In death thy woe's a hand that stops

The current of Eternity,

And smites thy echoed grief to me,

O tender heart!

No tears, O love! be happy now!

"A little while," and know shalt thou

What 't is to lie and wait in earth

The resurrection and the birth.

Weep not for me!

*FADED LEAVES.*

WE heard a maiden singing in a wood,  
He saw the wild vines kiss her as she  
stood,

With face upturned to note their wavy grace.

There was no note of sadness in her song,  
And yet his thoughts were saddened, as along  
The woodland path she went, 'mid tender  
leaves.

"To-day's a dream, to-morrow's real," he said;  
"For life's a dream, the wakened ones are dead;  
She sings a lullaby for all her race."

And death is real, for life is but to-day;  
To-morrow's death, to-day will pass away,  
And hold, for green and sunlit, faded leaves.



*THE SHAMROCK.*



HEN April rains make flowers bloom  
And Johnny-jump-ups come to light,  
And clouds of color and perfume  
Float from the orchards pink and white,  
I see my shamrock in the rain,  
An emerald spray with raindrops set,  
Like jewels on Spring's coronet,  
So fair, and yet it breathes of pain.

The shamrock on an older shore  
Sprang from a rich and sacred soil  
Where saint and hero lived of yore,  
And where their sons in sorrow toil;  
And here, transplanted, it to me  
Seems weeping for the soil it left

The diamonds that all others see  
Are tears drawn from its heart bereft.

When April rain makes flowers grow,  
And sparkles on their tiny buds  
That in June nights will over-blow  
And fill the world with scented floods,  
The lonely shamrock in our land—  
So fine among the clover leaves—  
For the old springtimes often grieves—  
I feel its tears upon my hand.

*TO-DAY.*

TO-DAY is bright with golden gleams of  
spring,

To-day is fair, and all our sweet hopes sing;  
But night comes down, and then our day is  
done.

It is not always bright, nor always spring,  
And sunny seasons are the ones that bring  
Most sudden showers; and the light is gone!

Live in the sunlight, in the fair to-day!  
To-morrow keeps to-morrow, and the way  
May, in a moment, lose the light of sun!

*OF LIFE.*

DE, fixing eyes of hope upon the sun,  
And never steering while the swift  
waves run,

Him turning as they list, can reach no goal.

For all our life is made of little things,  
Our chain of life is forged of little rings,  
And little words and acts uplift the soul.

'T is good to look aloft with ardent eyes,  
And work as well ; he, doing these, is wise ;  
But one without the other gains no goal.

*O HEART OF EXILE.*

FRANÇOIS COPPÉE.



HEART of exile, dream thou of the day  
When the fair future all thy nature  
stirred,

And in thy hand her white hand nestling lay,  
Like a tired bird!

Ah, then, how quickly all thy soul within  
Grew warm and trembled in that tender hour,  
How silently thou drank'st the moments in,  
Like a faint flower.

Again dark clouds of sorrow fill thy sky,  
For she, afar, can give no look or word—  
Thy tender thoughts away all drooping fly,  
Like a tired bird.

Already o'er thy soul comes winged distrust,  
And grief is born anew in love's late bower,  
Thou knowest love will fall and fade in dust,  
Like a faint flower.

*APPLE BLOSSOMS.*



HE tender branches sway and swing,  
 Whispering all that the robins sing  
 Of hope and love, and lightly fling  
     Showers of apple blossoms.

A head of black and a head of gold,  
 Her little hands in his firm hold,  
 Eyes that speak more than words have told  
     Under the apple blossoms.

Ever on earth again shall they  
 Find in springtime so fair a day?  
 Is it true that love can pass away  
     With spring and apple blossoms?

*DRIFTING.*

AT harvest, when the sun shone o'er the  
wheat,

Standing in shocks in the quiet, pleasant  
fields,

We, hand in hand, walked through the noon-  
day heat,

Along the land to where the pond lay  
still,

'Neath water-lilies floating at their will.

And while we walked and spoke of other days,

At harvest, too, before my love and I

Had been made one to walk through this  
world's ways

As man and wife, until the end shall be,

When life shall live itself eternally



Her sister, speaking to her, softly said:

“How far,” she asked, “my dear one, have  
you solved

Life’s problem? Well, I mind me ere were wed

Your love and you, you often thought it  
o’er,

Afraid of darkness on the unseen shore.”

And, as we skirted the sweet, verdant shores,

And drifted near the lilies, spoke no word

My thoughtful wife, and the unmovèd oars

Caught in the branches of the hanging  
trees

Came from the land the murmuring hum  
of bees.

“Life is no problem,” said my wife, at last ;

“’Tis our own blindness makes us think  
it one;

For we can read the future by the past.

Has God not kept us? We are anchored  
here,

Floating, yet anchored—lilies in a mere."

*"GOLD AND GREEN."*



OLD and green and blue and white,  
Daisies, buttercups and sky,  
Grass, and clouds, and birds unite  
In a chorus of delight,  
For the tender spring is nigh,  
Soon will winds no longer sigh.

March and April pass away,  
And the dainty-fingered rain  
Plays sweet symphonies all day,  
Welcoming the lovely May;  
Soon will chickweed fill the lane,  
And poppies sprout amid the grain.

*BENEATH A BALCONY,*

(AFTER A PERSIAN SONG.)



ARCISSUS-FLOWERS, drunk with  
dews of night,

Her eyelids droop to veil a scornful light,

And on her fair brow curl the black  
love locks,

Twin serpents on the pale orb of the  
moon.

O breath of roses, rose of red and white,

O voice of bulbul in the wooded height,

I care not if her languid smile but mocks,  
A smile from her is Allah's greatest boon.

I only dream !—her veil close hides her face,  
The jealous curtain of a holy place;

A rose's hundred leaves on heart of gold  
Are not so careful of the gem they hold.

If she should smile and wear a veil of lace,  
Another man might look,—such looks deface  
And make a treasure common; sweet the  
fold  
That wraps her from me—and the vile  
and bold!

*SLEEPING SONG.*

EN months had passed since rosy

Herakles

Had opened wondering eyes unto the sun,  
When, in the sloping light of summer's eve,  
Alcmena, mother of the little twins,  
The hero and his brother fair to see,  
Bared her soft breasts, as all our mothers did,  
In tender love, and gave her boys their food;  
And having laved them in the mellow stream,  
She laid them down within Amphytrion's  
shield—

A half sphere of bright brass by bold blows  
won

From slaughtered Pterilaus—then, with  
hands,

Like blush-rose petals, on the head of each,  
In tones like cithern-echoes, thus she sang:

“Sleep, my boys, in gentle dewy sleep,  
Until the dawn in glowing beauty peep  
To call the hours from out the night’s dark  
    deep

    Into the light.

Sleep, for the day has sunk in the red west;  
Sleep, ’neath the mother-heart that loves you  
    best;

Sleep, sleep, and peaceful, peaceful be your  
    rest

    Till dark is light.

Anemones and roses drop their leaves  
In silent night, but still the ocean heaves;  
And so my heart fresh waves of love receives  
    Through all the night.

My other self in two, my heart in two,


Sleep happy, and wake joyous. Oh, for you  
I pray the gods to give me all I sue

Through day and night !”

And as sea-nymphs soft toss a favored boat,  
She rocked the buckler, singing as it moved.



*CYCLOPS TO GALATEA.*

OFTER than lambs and whiter than  
the curds,

O Galatea, swan-nymph of the sea!

Vain is my longing, worthless are my words;

Why do you come in night's sweet  
dreams to me,

And when I wake, swift leave me, as in fear

The lambkin hastens when a wolf is near?

Why did my mother on a dark-bright day

Bring you for hyacinths a-near my cave?

I was the guide, and through the tangled way

I thoughtless led you; I am now your  
slave.

Peace left my soul when you knocked at my  
heart—

Come, Galatea, never to depart!

Though I am dark and homely to the sight—  
A Cyclops I, and stronger there are  
few—

Of you I dream through all the quick-paced  
night,

And in the morn ten fawns I feed for you,  
And four young bears: O rise from grots  
below,

Soft love and peace with me for ever know!

Last night I dreamed that I, a monster gilled,  
Swam in the sea and saw you singing  
there:

I gave you lilies and your grotto filled  
With the sweet odors of all flowers rare;

I gave you apples, as I kissed your hand,  
And reddest poppies from my richest land.

Oh, brave the restless billows of your world:

They toss and tremble; see my cypress-  
grove,

And bending laurels, and the tendrils curled

Of honeyed grapes, and a fresh treasure-  
trove

In vine-crowned Ætna, of pure-running rills!

O Galatea, kill the scorn that kills!

Softer than lambs and whiter than the curds,

O Galatea, listen to my prayer:

Come, come to land, and hear the song of  
birds;

Rise, rise, from ocean-depths, as lily-fair

As you are in my dreams! Come, then, O

Sleep,

For you alone can bring her from the deep.

And Galatea, in her cool, green waves,

Plaits her long hair with purple flower-  
bells,

And laughs and sings, while black-browed  
Cyclops raves

And to the wind his love-lorn story tells:  
For well she knows that Cyclops will ere long  
Forget, as poets do, his pain in song.

## FRANKNESS.

**I**NCONSTANT? And why not, O fair  
Hélène?

You have the bluest eyes I've ever seen,  
Blue as the violets in that season when  
The fields and hills are tinged with faint-  
est green;  
But you have not fair Marie's tender voice,  
Or Constance's smile, in which all hearts  
rejoice.

Inconstant? Why? I love the good in all,  
The good in one, and like the roving bee,  
(Are you *bas bleu*, fair lady, will you call  
My "roving bee" a threadbare simile?)  
I go from flower to fruit, and I love each,  
The faint-tinged rose-bud and the carmine  
peach.

I love you for your eyes, O fair Hélène,  
Your blue, blue eyes, so deep and limpid-  
clear,  
In whose deep depths are drownèd many  
men,  
And for their deaths have you not shed a  
tear!

And yet I love dear Rosalind's shy grace,  
And—can I help it?—little Celia's face.

I love the good in all, the good in one;  
Too frank am I? Can't help it! 'tis my  
way.

If you'll be Clytie, I will be the sun,  
And you can follow me about all day,  
And yet I'll smile on all, and that will be  
Love universal, not inconstancy.

Conceited? How you wrong me, fair Hélène;  
I'm not Apollo, and I know that well.

But you're not Clytie; if you were, why then  
I'd follow you. Good gracious! who  
could tell

The girl would get so mad! A temper, true!  
I'll never trust in meekest eyes of blue!

*AFTER THE SUMMER.*

“Yield up, O love, thy crown and hearted throne.”—OTHELLO.



HE walks in vain by yonder garden-gate,  
Where hollyhocks and tall carnations  
rise,

Sweet marjoram, and blooms that linger late,  
And all the scented herbs that house-  
wives prize.

A late rose throws soft kisses to the breeze,  
On petals sunrise-hued, like his love's  
cheeks;

He hears a child's voice in the apple-trees;  
He starts! Ah, no; it is not she that  
speaks.



---

Gone! Lost! Her voice must ever be afar—

Those tones that made his fond heart fervent bound;

'T was not a voice as other voices are,

For blithesome hope and love were in the sound.

She was a damsel, dainty, fair, and fine;

A princess in the city's latest style;

And "darts" and "hearts" were not much in her line;

A little nonsense was: so, many a mile

Stretches between the lonely heart that's left,

With fading hedges, and the maiden fair,  
One heart is wild with pain, of joy bereft,

The other's gay, and bright, and free  
from care.

A summer season and a wounded heart—

A young man's heart that suff'ring makes  
its moan—

Alas! that reason and true love should part;

“Yield up, O love, thy crown and hearted  
throne.”


And Cupid sneered, for Cupid's young no  
more,

And in my face he puffed his cigarette;

“Drop sentiment,—it's such an awful bore;

She has forgotten, he will soon forget!”

*HE MADE US FREE.*

S flame streams upward, so my longing  
thought

Flies up with Thee

Thou God and Saviour, who hast truly  
wrought

Life out of death, and to us, loving, brought  
A fresh, new world; and in Thy sweet chains  
caught,

And made us free!

As hyacinths make way from out the dark,

My soul awakes,

At thought of Thee, like sap beneath the bark;

As little violets in field and park

Rise to the trilling thrush and meadow-lark.

New hope it takes.

As thou goest upward through the nameless  
space

We call the sky,  
Like jonquil perfume softly falls Thy grace;  
It seems to touch and brighten every place,  
Fresh flowers crown our wan and weary race,  
O Thou on high!

Hadst Thou not risen, there would be no joy  
Upon earth's sod;  
Life would be still with us a wound or toy,  
A cloud without the sun,—O Babe, O Boy,  
O Man of Mother pure, with no alloy,  
O risen God!

Thou, God and King, didst "mingle in the  
game," \*

(Cease, all fears; cease!)

For love of us;—not to give Virgil's fame

---

\* Tennyson.

Or Cræsus' wealth, not to make well the lame,  
Or save the sinner from deservèd shame,

But for sweet Peace!

For peace, for joy;—not that the slave might  
lie

In luxury,

Not that all woe from us should always fly,  
Or golden crops with Syrian roses † vie  
In every field; but in Thy peace to die

And rise,—be free!

---

† Virgil.

*AT EASTER TIME.*

HE sunset, like a flaming sword,  
Between our sight and Paradise.

Offers its red fire to our eyes—  
A symbol of earth's Lord.

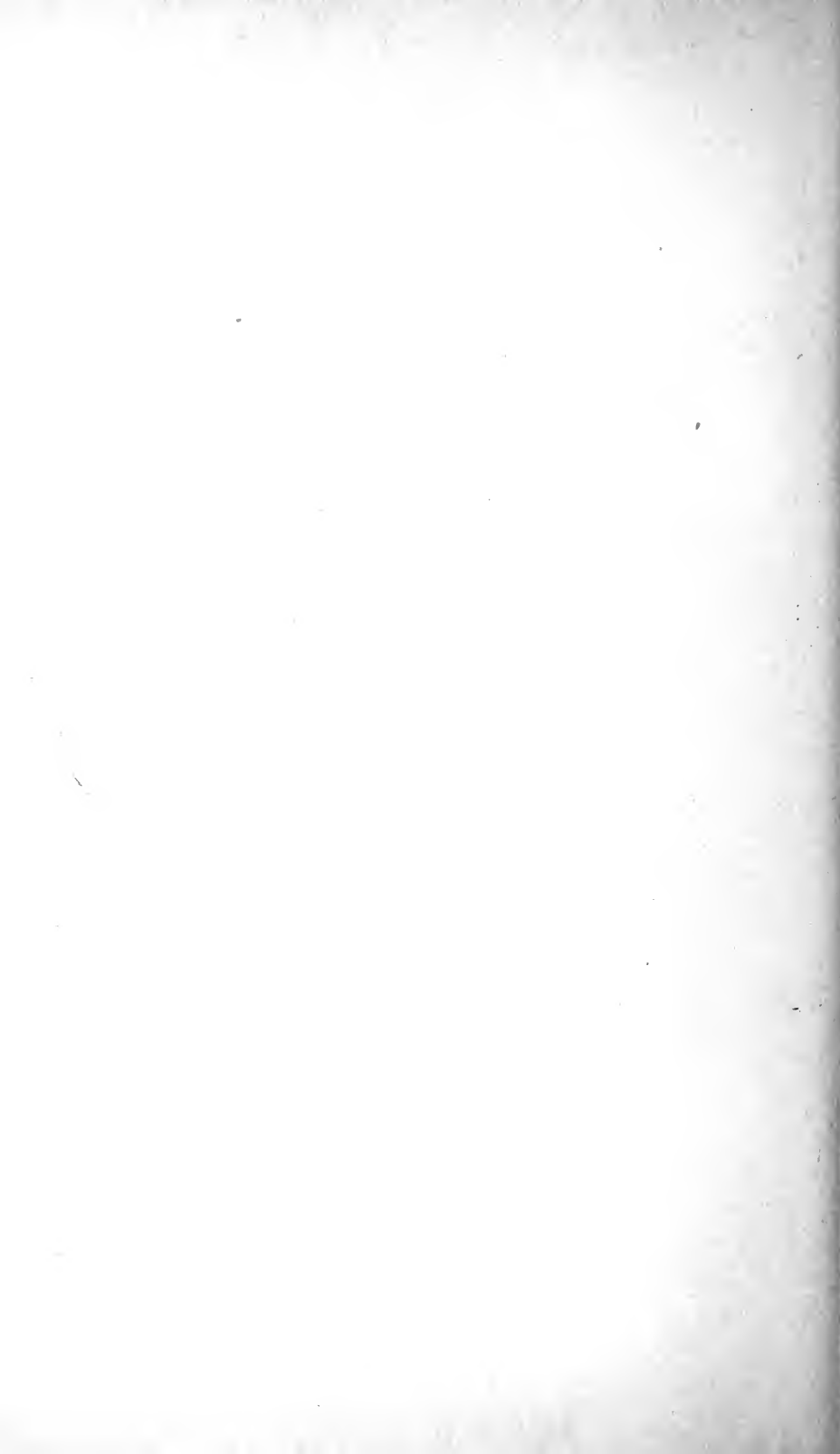
The crocus shows above the ground  
Its glowing lamp of yellow flame,  
It seems a letter of the Name  
Which choirs of angels sound.

An altar all this fair earth is,  
The Christian mind the priest,  
The greatest thinker or the least  
Is acolyte of His.

For nature gives us what we bring,  
Not more, nor any less;  
The meaning of her varied dress  
Must in our minds first spring.

Thus Easter gilds the opening year,  
Because Christ is our joy;  
The sunset brave, the crocus coy,  
Reflect Him bright and clear.

Nature's a sphinx to those who know  
Not Resurrection time!  
*We* read her well; in every clime  
Faith makes her meaning glow.





## NARRATIVE POEMS



## NARRATIVE POEMS.

### *THE FRIAR'S RUBY.*



*HE sea and the sky are the servants of God,  
And the earth is his footstool, too;  
Dark deeds may be done at a despot's nod,  
God's servants will bring them to view.  
He has hid his crime in the deep, deep sea:  
Who has seen its stain on land?  
But the sky knows all, and his hopes shall be  
As false as words in the sand!*

When Fra Gonsales in St. Francis' robe  
Came to the peons in fair Mexico,  
"Great Doctor" called they him; their  
every woe

He found and cured with balsam and with  
probe.

And so they said: "A Spaniard can be  
good"—

At first amazed.—"This Christian does  
not smite

And goad us as the soldiers, nor does spite  
Or malice gleam beneath his blessèd hood."

The peaceful Friar wrought for many a day  
Among the peons by the restless sea—

The chopping Gulf—that in the land  
might be

An altar to the Truth, the Light, the Way.

His bronze-hued children worked Gonsales'  
will,

And other friars came, and soldiers, few—

---

Sent by the King the Friar's will to do—  
Came to a place where evil tongues were still.

And with them Castro Mendez—"Cruel Eye"  
The peons called him—wily captain he  
Of Andalusian Guards: the charity  
Of Fra Gonsales saw no danger nigh.

Castro loved gold. "The pious monk's a fool!  
If he were not," he said, "I'd force these  
slaves  
To be *my* slaves; what though Spain's  
standard waves,  
If men are but the toys of this priest's rule!"

Storm came on storm borne on the northern  
wind,  
And boats went down in darkness of the  
night.

“ Oh! if to sea I could but cast a light!”  
Oft sighed the Friar, for he loved his kind.

And in the season of these stormy blasts  
Gonsales' church was finished; high it  
rose  
The sea-wind facing—and the great God  
knows  
How, poem-like, it had grown in tears and  
fasts!

While friars fasted, Castro cursed his fate,  
“ O, for Pizarro's power to balk the  
priests—  
O, for a day of lavish gold and feasts  
Luxurious and gay.—The priest wakes late!”

He heard the Friar calling on the name  
St. Antony, and saw him as he prayed.

---

Just then a peon entered and soft laid  
A glowing ruby down, a rose of flame.

“ ’Tis yours, O Father! It came from the  
mine

Called Wondrous, in the gorge by Inca's  
plain,  
For which the hated soldiers sought in vain.  
Take it, my Father; keep it, it is thine! ”

Don Castro heard; beneath his knitted brow  
Shot out a serpent-flame of evil light,  
And with desire his lips and cheeks grew  
white.

“ Go, gold,” he said, “ I shall have rubies  
now! ”

Don Castro sneered as Fra Gonsales raised  
His hands to Antony, the loving saint,

And like the Antony that artists paint  
Gonsales looked as his sweet Lord he praised.

Niched in the church-front stood the loving  
Maid,

The Mother-Queen Immaculate as fair,  
Above her the rose-window, high in air;—  
In it was put the ruby many-rayed.

By grace of the great Paduan, rich it glowed  
Through the dark, windy nights far out  
to sea,

A lighthouse to the sailors; gratefully  
Their prayers to Christ's sweet Mother nightly  
flowed.

The ruby of the window, red by day,  
But burning like a hundred fires by night,  
Until the Gulf with crimson was alight,



---

To seamen showed the safe and peaceful way.

Don Castro sought—the mine he could not  
gain,

(St. Antony, mayhap, had hid the place).

Bitter his heart and bitter looked his face;  
How sad is he who seeks for gems in vain!

He grew to hate Gonsales and his love

For “the slave-hearted peons”; holy rood

To him was irksome as St. Francis’ hood:

Who seeks for self can seldom look above.

The devil, in his soul, became more bold,—

Don Castro dreamed of imps with jeweled  
eyes,

Of serpents crimsoned in strong ruby  
dyes,

And waking cried, “My crimson soul is sold!”

One night he did the deed; the Friar knelt  
    Beneath the ruby and Our Lady's  
        shrine—

“St. Antony!”—a gasp—a poniard's  
        shine:

Don Castro, mounted high, no sorrow felt.

Beneath the window lay a crimson pool,  
    And on the sea there shone no crimson fire;  
    Don Castro, stained with red, had his  
        desire,  
He held the ruby—he the devil's fool!

The night was lightless, twice unsteadily  
    Don Castro wavered, then he falling  
        caught  
    The ruby to his heart—the good he  
        sought  
Fell with him to the bottom of the sea.

At Vera Cruz this simple tale is told,  
 And near its coast the sea at eve is red  
 With light of the great ruby in its bed  
 Beneath the waves, in false Don Castro's hold.

The Friar's Love still lives: Love never dies;  
 For still the sea in storms is crimson-lit,  
 Where stood Our Lady's church; no  
 pilot's wit  
 Is now at fault; the white sail homeward flies.

*He has hid his crime in the deep, deep sea:  
 Who has seen its stain on land?  
 But the sky knows all, and his hopes shall be  
 As false as words in the sand.*

*The sea and the sky are God's warders true,  
 Each whispers to each all day,  
 The lips of the gray and the ear of the blue  
 Are telling and hearing alway.*

*DOÑA INEZ.*

(SUGGESTED BY DORÉ'S "SPANISH BEGGARS.")



THROUGH the widest street in Cadiz

Dofia Inez rode one day,

Clad in costly silk and laces,

In a group of friends as gay.

Near the portals of a convent—

From the Moors just lately won—

Sat a crowd of dark-skinned beggars

Basking in the pleasant sun;

One an old man—he a Christian

Blind to all the outward light—

Told his black beads, praying softly

For all poor souls still in night.

"I am but a Moorish beggar,"

Said a woman with a child;

“I am but a Moorish beggar,  
And the Moors are fierce and wild.  
*You* may *talk* of Christian goodness—  
Christian Faith and Charity,  
But *I'll* never be a Christian  
’Till some proof of these I see.  
Christians are as proud and haughty  
As the proudest Moor of all;  
And they hate the men that hate them  
With a hate like bitter gall.”

“You judge rashly, O my sister,  
In the words you speak to me.”  
“I would be a Christian, blind man:  
Show me Christian charity!

“Lo! here comes proud Doña Inez,  
Very rich and fair to see;  
I am but a Moorish beggar,  
Will the lady come to me?


No! she will not, for she hateth  
All the children of the Moor.  
If she come, I tell you, blind man,  
I will kneel, and Christ adore!"

Passing was the Lady Inez  
When the dark group met her eye,  
And she leant from out her litter  
Smiling on them tenderly.  
"They are poor, they are God's children,"  
Said a voice within her soul,  
And she lightly from her litter  
Stepped to give the beggars dole.

Sneered, and laughed, and laughing, wondered  
All the other ladies gay;  
And the Lady Inez knew not  
She had saved a soul that day.

*JEAN RENAUD.*

(GERARD DE NERVAL.)

HEN Jean Renaud came home from  
the war,

His body and mind were sick and sore.

“Good-day, my mother.” “Good-day, my  
son;

Your little child’s life has just begun.”

“Arrange, my mother, the great white bed,  
That I may lie down and rest my head;  
But make no noise, my mother, for fear  
My wife on her couch of pain may hear.”

And when the old hamlet clock had tolled  
The midnight hour, the death-angel rolled

Away the stone from the cave of life,  
And Jean Renaud passed from sin and strife.

"Mother, dear mother," his poor wife said,  
"Why do they sing as if one were dead?"  
"Daughter, dear daughter, 't is but a crowd  
That passes us by, chanting aloud."


"But, mother, my dear, why weep you so?  
I see the tears as they shine and flow."  
"Alas! the sad truth I cannot hide,  
'T is our own poor Jean who has just died."

"O mother, say to the sexton, who  
Digs in the earth, that a grave for two  
Must be made so very wide and deep  
That my husband, I, and our child may sleep."



*THE BARD'S STORY.*

[The Prince of this legend was the husband of Ethna, who, with her sister Fidalma, also a Princess of Meath, saw St. Patrick celebrating Mass one morning by a river. They were attracted by the sight; he answered their questions and baptized them.]

OVE makes man's life a glory; Hate, a hell;

A warning to all warriors, this I tell:

Strongest of the Fini, he, the Prince, alone  
Knelt by the river, sad, and made his moan.  
His lands were wide, his people staunch and  
true,

And in his palace four fair children grew.

His wife was Ethna, Princess mild of Meath,  
Graceful and tall—a lily in its sheath.

The Mass was said each day beneath his roof,  
And evil from his household held aloof.

And he had seen great Patrick when he came,  
At Paschal time, and lighted Christian flame.  
And he had seen the saint make poison good  
By words of prayer, while hatred near him  
stood.

And only in defense of clan and life,  
Since he had learned of Christ, had he made  
strife.

But though his cattle grazed in richest green,  
Black spots and red spots by the river's sheen;

And though his bards his prowess daily sang,  
His moans beside the reedy river rang  
At fall of night—some piercing loud and  
shrill,

Others that brought to hearers death-like  
chill.

*"Forgive, forgive!"* he murmured; *"oh! forgive!"*

*How can I bear my load of sin and live?*

*Oh! words of fire you spoke, great Patrick, Saint,  
Ere the clear stream had washed from me sin's  
taint.*

‘Even Red Conn, the slayer of your kin,  
Forgive, forgive, if you would Heaven win.’  
‘*He slew my men.*’ ‘Forgive,’ the Saint re-  
plied,  
‘Though through his wrath your clansmen  
oft have died.’

‘Forgive,’ he said. ‘*He laughed my threats to  
scorn!*’

‘Forgive, forgive! and win eternal morn.’  
‘Forgive Red Conn, and hurt him not, I pray;  
Your sister’s son is he. Forgive, I say!’

*‘Let me but fight for Christ with sword and  
brand—’*

‘Thou canst not fight thy sin with carnal  
hand!’

And then I promised, and the water flowed,  
And all my heart with love of Patrick glowed.

Conn came not near me; hid he dark and deep  
In marsh and bog where strange, wild crea-  
tures sleep.

Once, when I thought of clansmen cold and  
dead,

Killed by his hand ere he to bogs had fled,

My wrath awoke, but dying soon in peace,  
It to my better musings gave release.

Peace made me proud. One day I chased  
the deer,

And found my enemy crouched low in fear

Among the fern. I made a bound at him;  
He fled, not fighting, to this river’s brim.

---

Pale, worn, he was; my hatred quick awoke,  
But in my heart the voice of Patrick spoke.

‘Forgive, forgive!’ I heard the whisper run  
All through the reeds. ‘Remember Mary’s  
Son.’

I listened not: I drove Conn to his knee;  
His eyes were like a deer’s in agony.

My brain was drunk with rage, my blood was  
fire,

His death—the death of Conn was my desire.  
His eyes were all that spoke; the whispering  
leaves

Said, ‘Oh! forgive; great Patrick for you  
grieves.’

I struck him down, and then looked in his  
face.

O Christ! O God! how I did lose Thy grace!

*I saw his face!* 'Twas Conn's no more! O  
sight!

Wouldst Thou hadst shriveled me, O Lord  
of light!

*I saw His face, as He is on the cross!*

There He lay prone upon the sodden moss.  
The blood was His, not Conn's, that reddened  
all


The little shallows where the reeds grew tall."

\* \* \* \* \*

And, as the world shall last, the legends say,  
Sweet Ethna's husband moans his life away.  
Among the reeds his sighing all may hear;  
And may it such grace-losing make us fear!

For Love makes life a glory; Hate is vain,  
Except to wound our Saviour's heart again.

*A SWEDISH LEGEND.*

“HOU wilt be mine!” the Swedish monarch sighed.

“No; never thine!” the fair Christine replied.

“Thou hast a queen—a good and lovely bride.”

“But thou shalt have bright robes and laces  
old,

And thou shalt wear a dazzling crown of gold,  
And thou shalt half of all my kingdom hold!”

“My soul is dearer than thy garments bright;  
I love not flowers plucked in guilt’s dark  
night;

I fear the wrong, I love God’s holy right.”

“Thou shalt be mine, or die in torture dire,  
Thou shalt not die by water or by fire,  
My love was life, now death is my desire.”

And in a cask, strong-spiked with points of  
steel,

Men place the maiden, and then roughly wheel  
The cask along by blow of fist and heel.


Ah, she is dead, with blood upon her brow;  
Three angels with white wings before her  
bow

And bear her up,—her pain is rapture now.



*A BALLAD OF ISCANDER-BEG.*

I.

“T. MICHAEL stands upon my right,  
Therefore I have no fear;

When he shall cease his holy fight

My end will then be near.”

Thus spake the brave George Castriot  
Albania's Christian knight,

Who once with Moslems cast his lot,  
(With those who love our Jesu not).

They called him by another name—

The hateful Moslem crew! —

Iscander-Beg! They knew his fame,

And deep that fame they rue.

To-day, beside the Golden Horn,  
Full many a Moslem dame  
Most sore affrights her latest born  
With that bright name that Christians mourn.

His father was a noble good,  
    His mother, sweet and fair,  
Who loved our Jesu's holy rood  
    And breathed forth many a prayer  
For those who with the infidel  
In need of Christian solace stood,  
And in their sins were forced to dwell  
(Her prayers, O Castriot, served thee well!).

The Turkish hordes swept down one day,  
    Ferocious and armed well,  
Four little boys that were at play  
    A hostage to them fell;  
For Christians could not hold their own—  
They were the Moslem's prey.

Three of them had to Heaven flown  
Before the fourth was fully grown.

Albania's blood flowed swift and true

    Within his princely veins;

The Sultan learned to know it, too,

    And kept in golden chains

The soul of him that was Christ's child,

Baptized as he knew well;

But conscience-stifled, soul-beguiled,

His heart and strength grew fierce and wild.

“Weak are the corselets you have brought!”

    The fearful Sultan said

Unto the armorers, who wrought

    Strong shields for heart and head.

“My bold Albanian's naked skin,

His arms when clothed with naught,

Will let no arrow enter in;

To him your thickest steel is thin.

Hail, Alexander,\* lord and prince!"

The fearful Sultan cried,  
Not dreaming that his hosts would wince  
Before that name of pride.

Iscander-Beg is Castriot,  
(How deep his great sword dints!)  
Though for a time he cast his lot  
With those who loved our Jesu not.

II.

He reveled with the Moslem swine,  
Pierced many a true man's heart;  
He spilled our Christian blood like wine,  
And fought with skillful art;  
But the Good Shepherd sought for him,  
From him God would not part,  
For "Salve" ('t was his childish hymn)  
Stopped many a sinful thought and whim.

---

\*Iscander-Beg—Lord Alexander.

For childish thoughts are lifetime's dreams

Within us unto death,

They come upon us when pain seems

To stop our very breath.

And so Iscander-Beg, the strong,

At least the legend saith,

Was led by childish thoughts along

By music of the "Salve" song.

And mothers' prayers work wonders strange,

They never are in vain;

No earthly power can check their range,

No heavenly will. 'T is plain

Christ's Mother loves all mothers well,

Can *She* be deaf to mothers' pain?

So 'Scander-Beg, an infidel,

Apostate came from Moslem hell.

There shone a day for Christian lands,

A wonder-working day,

When Castriot looked at his hands,  
All soiled with bloody clay:  
“My soul’s like this, God’s mark is there,  
No sin can hide that mark away!  
My sins are scarlet; can I dare  
To ask the Christ to make me fair?”

A mother’s prayers all battles win!  
He left his worthless gold,  
He cast aside the nets of sin  
That chained him in their hold.  
He tore away the crescent moon  
Which fast was growing (Moslems told  
How it would swing o’er Europe soon).  
It waned!—this was a mother’s boon.

“Islander-Beg!” he cried, “to hell  
I cast that title vile;  
I spit upon thee, infidel;  
At all thy honors false, I smile.

Poor as a monk, I choose the cross;  
Ah! never shall vain things beguile  
Me to the loving of base dross;  
These honors to the fiends I toss!"

We know the rest: he saved the world,  
Our world, from Moslems' rule,  
And on their running ranks he hurled  
(This man who had been Moslems' tool!)  
His mighty strength. Brave Castriot  
Became a child in Jesu's school;  
Knelt weeping that he cast his lot  
With those who loved our Lady not.

Oh! thoughts of childhood do not die  
Like thoughts of man and youth;  
They change not like an April sky  
They live in lies or truth,  
And, be they false or be they true,  
They work us good or ruth;

And well George Castriot's mother knew  
That Jesu grants when mothers sue.

“St. Michael stands upon my right,

My own right arm I bare;

While he is with me in the fight,

I need no armor there.

My sword, best tempered blade of all,

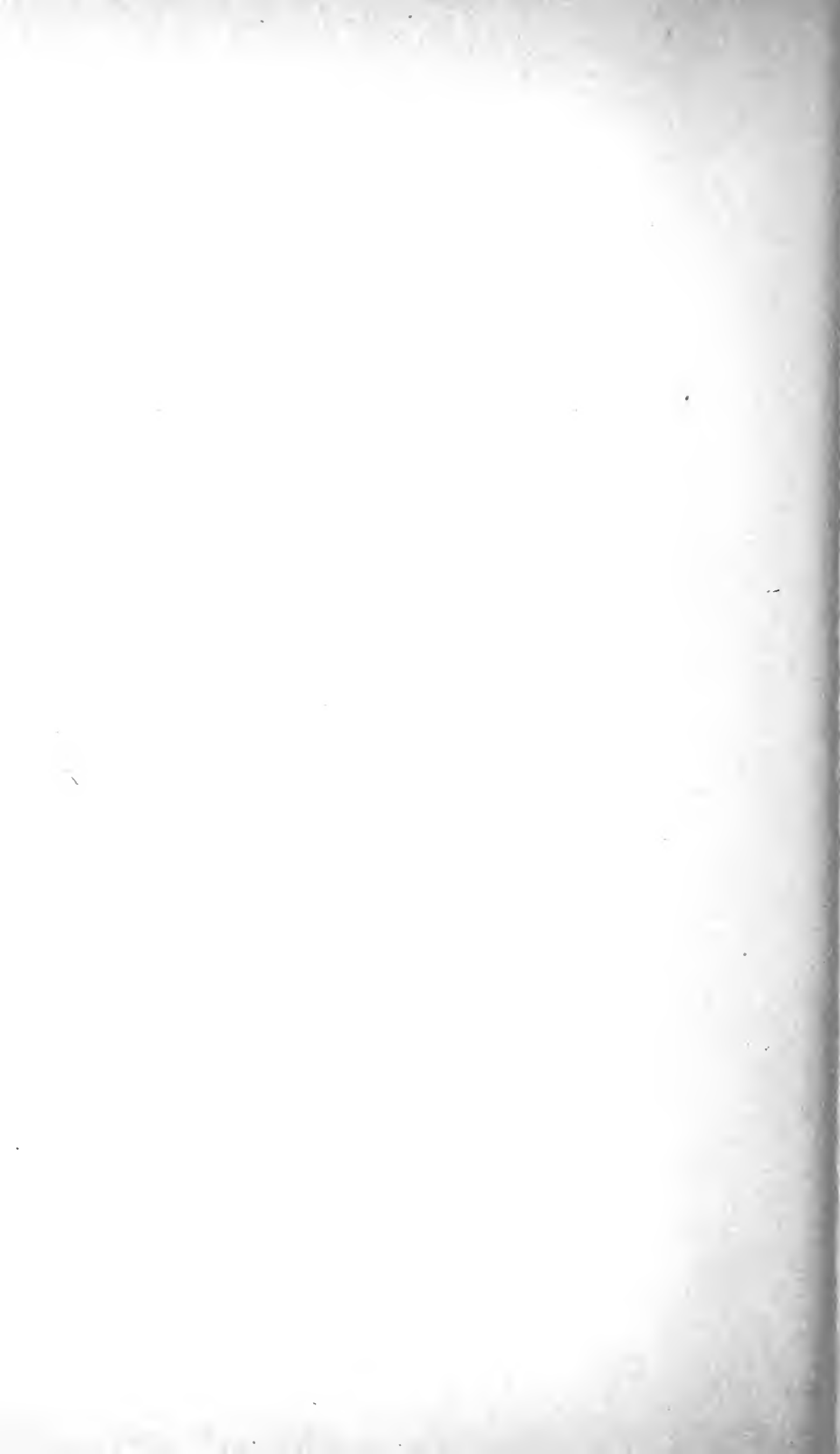
Will cleave a yielding hair!

But if Lord Jesu will, I fall—

Maria! hear a sinner's call!”




# SONNETS



## SONNETS.

### *PERPETUAL YOUTH.*

 IS said there is a fount in Flower  
Land,—


De Leon found it,—where Old Age away  
Throws weary mind and heart, and fresh as day  
Springs from the dark and joins Aurora's band:  
This tale, transformed by some skilled trou-  
vère's wand

From the old myth in a Greek poet's lay,  
Rests on no truth. Change bodies as Time  
may,

Souls do not change though heavy be his hand.  
Who of us needs this fount? What soul is old?


Age is a mask,—in heart we grow more young,  
For in our winters we talk most of spring;  
And as we near, slow-tottering, God's safe fold,  
Youth's loved ones gather nearer;—though  
                    among  
The seeming dead, youth's songs more clear  
                    they sing.

*OF ONE WE LOVE OR HATE.*

N old Assisi, Francis loved so well  
His Lady Poverty, that to his heart  
He pressed her heart, nor felt the deadly smart  
From lips of frost, nor saw the fire of hell  
From lurid eyes that fevered Dante's cell,  
And parches souls who, hating, feel her dart.  
He chose her, and he dwelt with her apart.  
The two were one, illumined through Love's  
spell:

He loved her, and she glowed, a lambent star;  
He loved her, and the birds came at his call—  
Her frosts were pearls, her face was fair to see.  
He sang his lady's praises near and far,  
He saw our world as Adam ere the Fall—  
So Love transfigures even Poverty.

*THEOCRITUS.*

APHNIS is mute, and hidden nymphs  
complain,  
And mourning mingles with their fountains'  
song;  
Shepherds contend no more, as all day long  
They watch their sheep on the wide, cyprus-  
plain;  
The master-voice is silent, songs are vain;  
Blithe Pan is dead, and tales of ancient wrong  
Done by the gods, when gods and men were  
strong,  
Chanted to reeded pipes, no prize can gain.  
O sweetest singer of the olden days,  
In dusty books your idyls rare seem dead;

The gods are gone, but poets never die;  
Though men may turn their ears to newer lays,  
Sicilian nightingales enrapturèd  
Caught all your songs, and nightly thrill the  
sky.

*MAURICE DE GUÉRIN.*

HE old wine filled him, and he saw,  
with eyes

Anoint of Nature, fauns and dryads fair  
Unseen by others; to him maidenhair  
And waxen lilacs, and those birds that rise  
A-sudden from tall reeds at slight surprise,  
Brought charmèd thoughts; and in earth  
everywhere

He, like sad Jaques, found a music rare  
As that of Syrinx to old Grecians wise.  
A pagan heart, a Christian soul had he,  
He followed Christ, yet for dead Pan he sighed,  
Till earth and heaven met within his breast;  
As if Theocritus in Sicily  
Had come upon the Figure crucified  
And lost his gods in deep, Christ-given rest.



*JESSICA.*

HE youth beneath her balcon sings of  
love—

Old Shylock's gone: "O Jessica, come thou  
Unto this heart which in one fervent vow  
Has burned its flesh and blood!" The  
moments move

As days in Eden; she goes, like a dove,  
From great St. Mark's at Venice, to endow  
Her lover with her life. The rosy Now  
Seems Heaven itself, and he the Lord thereof.  
But love is rainbow-tinted, and as short  
As is the life of rainbows. "Mine? Oh, nay!"  
Say'st thou, fair Jessica, who maketh sport  
Of that old Jew, thy father? In love's court  
Thou dost eat lotus, but old lovers say  
To love's own chamber memories oft resort.

*A NIGHT IN JUNE.*

## I.



RICH is the scent of clover in the air,  
And from the woodbine, moonlight  
and the dew  
Draw finer essence than the daylight knew;  
Low murmurs and an incense everywhere!  
Who spoke? Ah! surely in the garden there  
A subtile sound came from the purple crew  
That mount wistaria masts, and there's a clue  
Of some strange meaning in the rose-scent rare:  
Silence itself has voice in these June nights—  
Who spoke? Why, all the air is full of speech  
Of God's own choir, all singing various parts;

Be quiet and listen: hear—the very lights  
In yonder town, the waving of the beech,  
The maples' shades,—cry of the Heart of  
          hearts!

II.

On such a night spoke raptured Juliet  
From out the balcon; and young Rosalind,  
Wandered in Arden like the April wind;  
And Jessica the bold Lorenzo met;  
And Perdita her silvered lilies set  
In some quaint vase, to scent the Prince's mind  
With thoughts of her; and then did Jaques find  
Sad tales, and from them bitter sayings get.  
To all of these the silence sang their thought;  
To all of these it gave their thought new grace:  
Soprano of the lily, roses' lone  
And passionate contralto, oak boughs' bass—

All sing the thought we bring them, be it  
fraught

With the sad love of lovers, or God's own.

III.

This sweetness and this silence fill my soul  
With longing and dull pain, that seem to  
break

Some cord within my heart, and sudden take  
Life out of life; and then there sounds the roll  
Of wheels upon the road, the distant toll  
Of bells within the town: these rude things  
make

Life wake to life; and all the longings shake  
Their airy wings,—swift fly the pain and dole.  
Again the silence and the mute sounds sweet  
Begin their speaking; I alone am still  
What are you singing, O you starry flowers

Upon the jasmine?—"Void and incomplete."  
And you, clematis?—"Void the joys that fill  
The heart of love until His Heart is ours."

## IV.

O choir of silence, without noise of word!  
A human voice would break the mystic spell  
Of wavering shades and sounds; the lily bell  
Here at my feet sings melodies unheard;  
And clearer than the voice of any bird,—  
Yes, even than that lark which loves so well,  
Hid in the hedges, all the world to tell  
In trill and triple notes that May has stirred.  
"O Love complete!" soft sings the mignon-  
ette;  
"O Heart of All!" deep sighs the red, red  
rose;  
"O Heart of Christ!" the lily voices meet

In fugue on fugue; and from the flag-edged,  
wet,

Lush borders of the lake, the night wind blows  
The tenor of the reeds—"Love, love complete!"

*THE JOY-BRINGER.*

I.



NOT when old Bion's idyls sweet were  
sung,

Or when fine Horace scorned the vulgar herd,  
And praised his frugal fare—each chosen word  
Writ where full skins of rare Falernian hung  
Above a table with rich garlands flung  
By Roman slaves; not when the dancer stirred  
The air of spring, like swaying wave or bird,  
Was there true joy the tribes of men among!

These idyls and these odes hide sadness deep  
And canker worms despite the shining gold  
We gild them with; their lucent music flows

To noble words at times, but words of sleep,  
But words of dreaming; life was not Life of  
old,—

It came to earth when God the Son arose!

## II.

The fair façade, the carved acanthus leaf,  
The sparkling sea where clearest blue meets  
blue,

The piled-up roses, steeped in silver dew  
Upon the marble tiles, the white-robed chief  
Of some great group of men seeks cool relief  
Upon a galley hung with every hue  
That glads the eye, while violets slave girls  
strew


To cithern-sounds;—this picture artists drew:



And, moved, our poets cry for the dead Pan;  
Turn from the rood and sing the fluted reed,—  
“Arcadia, O Arcadia, come again!”  
A cry of fools—a cry unworthy man  
Who was a sodden thing before the Deed  
Of Love Divine turned blinded slaves to men!

*CONSOLATION.*

## I.

HE swift years pass, fast flies the snow,  
Fast blow the gusts of autumn time,  
Fast grows the summer from its prime,  
Fast the world-currents ebb and flow,  
Comes death, goes life, and like the glow  
Of poet's thoughts in poet's rhyme  
That raise us to a golden clime,  
Illusions soothe us as we go:  
We are but children,—God is great!  
In face of death we could not live,  
Were there no castles in the clouds,  
No earthly hopes that hearts elate,  
No daily joys His dear hands give,  
No flowers to hide the sombre shrouds.

## II.

New days! new friends—we love them all!  
God gives new sunlight each new day,  
And when the older pass away,  
He throws some blossoms on death's pall,—  
He puts fresh garlands on the wall  
That hides from us the holy ray,—  
The Blessed Vision that alway  
Will shine for those who hear His call:  
Which are the deeper,—smiles or prayers?  
Why chide us, if we laugh to-day  
With newer friends, when hearts are cold  
That once knew all our joys and cares?  
No man is false, who, true, can say  
“Smiles for the new, prayers for the old!”

*RAPHAEL.*

TEEPED in the glow and glory of old  
Rome—

So old, so young, in life, and death, and art—  
His pictures shine, so near to Truth's great  
heart,

That through the ages Truth has in her home  
The brightest stars in her celestial dome  
Kept them alive; and will, till time is done,  
Fill them with stronger light than fire or sun.  
Great Prince of Painters! laurel wreathes his  
name;

The world may babble,—she's an ancient  
dame!

And say his life and art held much of clay,  
Reproaching him; yet saints fell on their way.  
If sin repented be a blot on fame,

His fame is fameless, though he reached fame's  
goal,  
And left us glory shining from his soul.


*FRA ANGELICO.*

ART is true art when art to God is true,  
And only then: to copy Nature's work  
Without the chains that run the whole world  
through  
Gives us the eye without the lights that lurk  
In its clear depths: no soul, no truth is there.  
Oh, praise your Rubens and his fleshly brush!  
Oh, love your Titian and his carnal air!  
Give me the trilling of a pure-toned thrush,  
And take your crimson parrots. Artist—saint!  
O Fra Angelico, your brush was dyed  
In hues of opal, not in vulgar paint;  
You showed to us pure joys for which you  
sighed.

Your heart was in your work, you never  
feigned:

You left us here the Paradise you gained!

*COLUMBUS THE WORLD-GIVER.*

HO doubts has met defeat ere blows  
can fall,

Who doubts must die with no palm in his hand;  
Who doubts shall never be of that high band  
Which clearly answer—Present! to Death's  
call;

For Faith is life, and, though a funeral pall  
Veil our fair Hope, and on our promised land  
A mist malignant hang, if Faith but stand  
Among our ruins we shall conquer all.

O faithful soul, that knew no doubting low.  
O Faith incarnate, lit by Hope's strong flame,  
And led by Faith's own cross to dare all ill  
And find our world!—but more than this we  
owe



To thy true heart; thy pure and glorious name  
Is one clear trumpet call to Faith and Will.

*CERVANTES.*

HERE was a time when books of chivalry

Were full of monster-men and dragons great;  
When Amadis of Gaul and his fair mate  
Were bound in love against all rivalry;  
When he who strove a faithful knight to be  
Must lengthened vigils keep and, longing, wait  
And also fight until he stood, elate,  
O'er giants and dragons in proud victory.

Then came Quixote, peerless gentleman,  
Who put the dragons and the giants to flight,  
And turned the world from knights all amorous;

Then through the world the rippled laughter  
ran


When Sancho came. No shadows are the  
knight

And clown our great Cervantes made for us.

*FREDERIC OZANAM.*

SOUL alight with purest flame of love,  
A heart aglow with sweetest charity,  
A mind all filled—and this is rarity—  
With even-balanced thoughts, his eyes above,  
Yet saw the earth in its dread verity;  
For is't not true that some who Heaven see  
Cast down no looks upon the shadows of  
This shadowed world? A serpent, yet a dove,  
He read the world and, seeking, found the clue  
To all the secrets of our troubled time,  
And from the past drew other secrets down;  
He placed, 'mid Dante's bays, a diamond true  
Of purest water; and in every clime  
Prayers of God's poor add gems to his bright  
crown.

*AT THE END OF AUTUMN.*

OST ! all the flush of roses and of skies  
That change at morning to the red of  
eve,


O'er clover-waves that in soft meadows heave  
In foam of blossoms with white-fringed eyes—  
The changing glamour that the sun fays leave,  
The snow of summer that on green sward lies  
When roses faint and all their spells unweave  
In vale and coppice, ere the autumn flies!

Ah, naught is left to me but winter days,  
For all my summer has been lost to me  
Amid dull drudging in the toil of trade.  
Lost gold of grain fields, green of country  
ways—

A dream!—my dream! for one whole day of  
ye

I'd risk all gold of men, and be well paid!

*TRUE LOVE.*

S love the passion that the poets feign,  
Drawn from the ruins of old Grecian  
time,

Born of the Hermæ and all earthly slime,  
And tricked by troubadours in trappings vain  
Of flowers fantastic, like a Hindoo fane,  
Or the long meter of an antique rhyme  
Dancing in dactyls? Is love, then, a crime—  
A rosy day's eternity of pain?

If we love God, we know what loving is;  
For love is God's: He sent it to the earth,  
Half-human, half-divine, all glorious—  
Half-human, half-divine, but wholly His;  
Not loving God, we know not true love's worth,  
We taste not the great gift He gave for us.


*THE CHRYSALIS OF A BOOKWORM.*

READ, O friend, no pages of old lore,  
Which I loved well, and yet the fly-  
ing days,  
That softly passed as wind through green  
spring ways  
And left a perfume, swift fly as of yore,  
Though in clear Plato's stream I look no more,  
Neither with Moschus sing Sicilian lays,  
Nor with bold Dante wander in amaze,  
Nor see our Will the Golden Age restore.  
I read a book to which old books are new,  
And new books old. A living book is mine—  
In age, three years: in it I read no lies;  
In it to myriad truths I find the clue—



A tender, little child; but I divine  
Thoughts high as Dante's in her clear blue  
eyes.

*THE AFTER THOUGHT.*

HY is it that our life seems full of  
wrong?


That even poets, who are human birds,  
Set saddest music to the saddest words,  
And mingle sighs and tears in all their song?  
For Chaucer's marguerites still bloom along  
Our rustic fences, herdsmen and their herds  
Know Shakespeare's cookoo-cups, and the  
new curds  
Are hard and white, and violet-scent is strong:  
'Tis not because the gods are silent all,  
For in Siena the Brigata held  
Their revels, and joy's golden badges wore,—  
So sayeth sweet Folgore,—carnival

Reigned blithe and jocund;—Giant Thought

has felled

The gay Page Laughter: there is mirth no  
more.

*BY RIGHT DIVINE.*

N this free land I know a tyrant king  
Who rules supreme a kingdom all his  
own,  
Who reigns supreme by right divine alone,  
Who governs slaves that always cringe and  
sing,—  
“He walks! He talks!” in most admiring  
tone;  
They quail with fear if he but make a moan,  
And wild confusion comes if he but fling  
Away his scepter—coral, jingling thing!  
He is a king, though loving anarchy,  
A tyrant king, whom our fond land obeys,  
A tyrant king, yet scarce a mimic man;

And this whole land is bound in monarchy,  
All mother-hearts some little ruler sways,  
If harder fathers be republican.

*ON MEADOWS GREEN.*

WHEN the first blush and bloom of life  
have fled,

And on the summit of youth's mound we stand,  
And youth to manhood gladly gives his hand,  
And then quick dies, and manhood in his stead  
Shows us a mist that hides an unknown land,  
By wild, chill breezes are our faces fanned:  
The world before us!—and no longer red,  
Nor glowing with fair hope, for youth is dead.  
A mist all gray is drawn before the world—  
This great wide life! To fight life all alone  
Is now our lot; yet other men have seen  
The same vague foe; and patient souls have  
hurled

Their fear away, and, going, made no moan,  
To find the mist God's rain on meadows green.

*ILLUSION.*

(AFTER A SONNET BY SAINTE-BEUVE.)

**I**NTO the dimness of a chamber closed,  
 Curtained with care and full of slum-  
 b'rous rest,

A ray of light came, slopèd from the west,  
 To the small cradle where a child reposed—  
 A dainty cradle, laced and satin-rosed  
 By mother's hand, and in its fairy nest  
 The child soft slumbered, by the angels blest—  
 Near it lay Mouser, white-furred and pink-  
 nosed:

The cat was motionless as if of clay,  
 Until the gold ray moved upon the floor  
 O'er crimson carpet in its wanton game,—

Then all a-sudden Mouser saw the ray  
And chased it till it vanished evermore:  
Ah, sleeping child, thus *we* chase wealth and  
fame!



*NOVEMBER.*

HE crimson and the russet and the  
gold,

The palest green that gives a hint of spring,  
And nameless colors that swift breezes fling  
From waving trees: tall dahlias crisped by cold  
Vie with the sunrise, as some men when old  
Are brightest, or as swans, when dying, sing,  
Or a sweet strain the fickle zephyrs bring  
Stopped short before its burden is all told.

O fair November, lesson us, we pray;  
O sweet, sad season, teach us ere you go;  
O teach us, ere your mellow lights have passed,  
The secret in the fading of your day;  
That when life's end approaches, we may know  
The way to make our fairest, brightest, LAST!

*LEGENDS OF THE FLOWERS.*

## OF FLOWERS.



HERE were no roses till the first child  
died,

No violets, nor balmy-breathed heart's-ease,  
No heliotrope, nor buds so dear to bees,  
The honey-hearted suckle, no gold-eyed  
And lowly dandelion, nor, stretching wide,  
Clover and cowslip-cups, like rival seas,  
Meeting and parting as the young spring breeze  
Runs giddy races playing seek and hide:  
For all flowers died when Eve left Paradise;  
And all the world was flowerless awhile,  
Until a little child was laid in earth;  
Then from its grave grew violets for its eyes,  
And from its lips rose-petals for its smile,

And so all flowers from that child's death  
took birth.

I.

THE CHILD.

**I**N the late winter, when the breath of  
spring

Had almost softened the great fields of snow,  
A mother died, and, wandering to and fro,  
Her sad child sought her—frightened little  
thing!—

Through the drear woodland, as on timid wing  
A young bird flutters; in the bushes low  
It sunk in sleep, thus losing all its woe,  
With smiling lips her dear name murmuring:  
No loving arms were there to hold it fast,  
There were no kisses for it warm and sweet,  
But snowflakes, pitying, fell like frozen tears.

Then said its angel, "Snowflakes, ye shall last  
Beyond the life of snowflakes; at Spring's feet  
Bloom ye as flowers through all the coming  
years!"

## II.

MARGARET.



SHAMED before the world a woman  
stood

Near a great church, where lovely statues line  
The vaulted chapels; if tears be a sign  
Of sorrow, she was sorrowing; her hood  
Showed golden hair astray that never could,  
Even in sin, forget its young design  
To curl like tendrils of a summer vine.  
From out the church passed women sternly  
good;  
Upon her fevered brow was laid no hand,

Though Christ had blessed her sister Magda-  
len;

She wept and prayed, yet scornful words were  
said;

But soon soft snowflakes, falling o'er the land,  
Soothed her hot brow: her angel spoke, "*These*,  
then,

Shall bloom as flowers when ye lie cold and  
dead."

— III.

A ROMAUNT OF THE ROSE.



FAIRER light than ever since has  
shone,

Fell on that garden where Queen Eve's sweet  
bower

Was hid in roses and the jasmine flower,  
Curtained with eglantine, and overrun

With morning-glories glowing in the sun  
Late into noon, unheeding of the hour  
When now they close; these were our mother's  
dower!

She lived and loved amid all flowers, save one.  
There was no red rose in the garden wide  
Of all her world, until its mistress went  
From out its gates with roses in her hand,  
Spoil of past joys; then, like a new-made bride,  
She redly blushed, and that first blush has lent  
The rose its color over all our land.

*THE HEART.*

OW red it burns within yon crimson  
rose!

Deeper than fire in rubies is its hue  
Of brightest blood, which, shed for me and you,  
From that dear Heart has flowed, forever flows.  
In waving sprays of buds, carved mountain  
snows,

I see *her* heart, forever pure and true,—  
The Virgin's heart!—and in the morning dew  
The tears of joy she shed when her great woes  
Were lost in Heaven: and all June things speak,  
From ambient perfume in the sunlit air  
To trembling stalklets tipped by clover bloom,  
Of Christ, His Mother, and the Heart we seek

Through tangled roads and by-ways foul or  
fair,

The Heart that cheers us in the deepest gloom.



## ORDER.

(FROM THE ITALIAN OF ST. FRANCIS D'ASSISI.)

*Our Lord Speaks:*



AND though I fill thy heart with warm-  
est love,

Yet in true order must thy heart love me;  
For without order can no virtue be.  
By thine own virtue, then, I, from above  
Stand in thy soul; and so, most earnestly,  
Must love from turmoil be kept wholly free.  
The life of fruitful trees, the seasons of  
The circling year, move gently as a dove.  
I measured all the things upon the earth;  
Love ordered them, and order kept them fair,  
And love to order must be truly wed.

O soul, why all this heat of little worth?  
Why cast out order with no thought or care?  
For by love's warmth must love be governèd.

*SAINT TERESA TO OUR LORD.*



DO not love Thee for the joy, O Lord,  
Which Thou hast promised souls who  
love Thee well;

I do not fear Thee for the fires of hell  
Which burn for those whose right to Thy  
reward

Is lost by sin; but, with the whole accord  
Of mind, and soul, and longing heart as well,  
I love Thee for the time when Thou didst dwell  
Scorned on the earth, mocked by a faithless  
horde:

Were there no Heaven, I would love Thee still.  
I love Thee for Thy cross, Thy thorn-crowned  
Head;

For Thy dread Passion, Lord, I love Thee best;  
And though in firmest hope I wait thy will,  
Compared with love, my strongest hope is dead;  
For, without hope, in love I'd, trusting, rest!

*TROUBLED SOULS.*



O seek true rest and peace in wilds  
away,

It is not strange that men have fled the world  
From all the storm and strife perpetual hurled  
At the fair form of silence all the day;

For day and night do good and evil sway  
In close-knit fight, as when the Titans twirled  
And twisted in fierce combat: never furled  
Is Satan's flag, blood-reddened in hell's ray.

And though Thy cross, dear Christ, shines  
ever bright,

And Thy sweet Mother downward bends her  
gaze,

And Thy high saints own us in brotherhood,—

Our souls are troubled, the world's wrong  
seems right,

Our sight is dim, we falter in the maze;

For all our evil seems so near our good.

*PEACE.*

PEACE, not of earth, I ask of Thee, O  
God,

Peace, not in death, and yet Thy will be done;

I would not die until my soul has won

Some little grace: a barren, withered sod

My life has been,—now touch me with Thy rod,

That I may blossom, as in summer sun

Thy flowers open; pray Thee give me one

Sweet touch of peace, for I am but a clod.

I know that Thou art all and I am naught,

Yet I would show my new-found love for Thee

By days all filled with striving for thy grace.

Peace, peace, O peace! the peace which Thou

hast bought

With Precious Blood for us, O give it me,

Dear Lamb of God, that I may see Thy face!

*A QUESTION.*

FROM thy whole life take all the sweet-  
est days

Of earthly joy; take love before it cools;

Take words far-brought by all the learnèd  
schools

Since man first thought; then take the bright-  
est rays

Which poets limnèd with their rose-flushed  
tools;

Take heart-wrung music chastened with strict  
rules

Of greatest masters; and in all thy ways

Find things that make men only pleasure's  
fools.



Take these; beside them lay one heart-felt  
prayer;

Take these; beside them lay one little deed—  
One simple act done for the great Christ-  
Heart—

And all earth's fairest toys like graspless air  
To it will be; this being, then what need  
To strive for things that will, with time,  
depart?

*THE ANSWER.*

LET me forget the world—all, all, but  
Thee;

Let my whole soul arise as smoke from fire  
In praise of Thee; let only one desire  
Fill my whole heart—that through eternity,  
Forever and forever, I may be  
As incense ever rising to the Sire,  
The Son, and Spirit; may I never tire  
Of praising thus the glorious Trinity!

Poor soul, poor soul, such earthliness hast thou!  
The world's thyself, thou canst not flee from it;  
Thy prayers are selfish when thou prayest best,  
Thy love is little, and thy warmest vow

As charred wood moistened, the fire free from  
it;

Thou lackest much, but Christ will give the  
rest.

*WE CONQUER GOD.*

WORLD, great world, now thou art all  
my own,

In the deep silence of my soul I stay  
The current of thy life, though the wild day  
Surges around me, I am all alone;—  
Millions of voices rise, yet my weak tone  
Is heard by Him who is the Light, the Way,  
All Life, all Truth, the center of Love's ray;  
Clamor, O Earth, the Great God hears my  
moan!

Prayer is the talisman that gives us all,  
We conquer God by force of His own love,  
He gives us all; when prostrate we implore—

The Saints must listen; prayers pierce Heaven's  
wall;

The humblest soul on earth, when mindful of  
Christ's promise, is the greatest conqueror.

*AFTER LENT.*

OW the drear storm is past, the snow is  
gone,

And from the brown earth peeps the violet,  
And from the west, where late the dim sun set  
In winter clouds with weak rays, pale and wan,  
Comes light reflected of a newer dawn;  
Dark days have passed since the sad Mother  
met


The sweet Saint John, with her dark garments  
wet

With precious blood shed by the Holy One:

Light in the East!—Light in the East! The sun  
Up-blazes in his splendor from the gloom.

Light in the East!—and all the doubt is past,  
And all earth's beauty buds,—the risen One  
Has taken from our race the seal of doom,—  
Sweet peace has come,—and we are free at last!

*"RESURREXIT SICUT DIXIT."*

ND He has risen!" O my God, my  
Lord,

When shall I cease to pierce Thy heart with  
woe?

For all my life I've wandered to and fro  
From sin to sin, and Thou hast kept strict  
ward


And watch upon me, staying Thy dread sword  
Of justice o'er me. Even now I know,  
Though I have washed where the clear waters  
flow

From out Thy rock, my heart is with a cord  
Bound fast to sin. "And He is Christ indeed!"  
And all His brightness makes me feel my sin;



For as He brightens, I grow darker still—  
A spot upon Christ's sun; yet, in my need  
For me He's risen! I will enter in  
His joyful heart, and wait His holy will!

*THE LESSON OF THE SEASON.*

HAT comfort now, when summer days  
have fled,  
Have you, O heart, that in the sunshine basked?  
Have ye, O hands, that held all that was asked?  
For all your fruits and flowers lie frosted, dead.  
You did not dream amid the roses red,  
Gold-hearted, scented, which your green  
bowers masked,  
That cold would come, and with it wild winds  
tasked  
To tear away the garlands from your head.  
  
O lover of red roses and red wine,  
O scorner of Christ's Blood, to whom a prayer

Brought thoughts of dying, shudders, and  
vague fear,

Will dreams of pleasure and past joys of thine  
Make dreary winter hours more bright and fair  
Amid your dust and ashes? Death is here.

*GOLDEN NOON.*

DONIS has come back; cicadas sing,  
Though twelve months silent, for  
July is here;

And thou, O Aphrodite, void of fear,  
Dost sport in gold; and thou, gold-hearted  
thing,

O water-lily, drink'st (where reapers fling  
Their serried loads of many a barbèd spear)  
The scent of new-mown hay; and vague, yet  
near.

The voices of the noonday chirpers ring.

The sky is blue and gold and pearl-besprent,  
High blazes color, larkspur, poppy, pink;

The air is incense; it is joy to live;  
Yet only soulless creatures are content.  
Alas! in all this splendor we MUST think,  
Beyond this beauty what has earth to give?

*TO RICHARD WATSON GILDER.*

OMES that sad voice, O poet, from  
your heart?—

That austere voice that vibrates on the strings  
Of your sweet lyre, and into blithe song brings  
Notes solemn, as if Christian chants should  
start

Into wierd concord with the notes that dart  
From Pluto's bride in exile when she sings  
Of woodland days, when near her mother's  
springs,

To Syrinx-music, she bade care depart:  
In all your songs the birds and trees are heard,  
But through your singing sounds an under-  
tone—

Wind-message through the reeds, not sung,  
but sighed:—

Your heart sings like a silver throated bird,  
Your soul, remembering, sea-like, makes its  
moan,

Not for dead gods, but that the Christ has died.





## OTHER POEMS



## OTHER POEMS.

### *THE ANNUNCIATION.*



HE shadow of palms is still, but stiller  
the tall lilies' flame

(Emblems of Venus and Lilith), and  
blazes the sun like a boss,—

A boss on the Archangel's shield hung in the  
blue of the sky,—

For the Lady of Noon has arisen and  
scattered her poppies abroad.

The flower narcissus is bending, drooping, yet  
loath to die,

But the lilies are scarlet, defiant; they,  
stately, with one accord,

Face the fierce gaze of the sun god, knowing  
no pain or shame,

While fauns in the groves are moaning,  
mourning a nameless loss.

Where is there one spot of coolness, for all  
the wide earth seems dry,—

Dry in the pitiless beating of sun-rays for  
many a day?

The sleeper beside the fountain that has no  
waters now,

Sick of the scent of the poppies, sick of  
the sun's fierce glow,

Dreams of great torrents roaring, and, grate-  
ful, makes a vow;

There breathes a sound celestial across  
the lilies' row,

From out the court of the Virgin; it turns  
the sleeper's sigh

---

Into a song of hoping, as the toiler goes  
his way.

A serpent among the tall lilies raises his jew-  
eled head

Spotted with scarlet color, ruby-like in  
the sun.

“Air, or I die in this stillness!” the Tetrarch  
cries in his tent;

“How silent the light is growing!” the  
poet languidly sings;

And in the court of the Virgin a maiden’s  
form is bent,

Safe from the glare of the sunlight in the  
splendor of seraphs’ wings

That bear the Word of the Godhead; and the  
Mystic Twain are wed,

As the voice of the Virgin murmurs:  
“The will of our God be done!”

So soft,—and yet Nature wakens and the  
Hours from sleep arise;

So sweet,—yet the serpent quivers and  
dies in the scarlet sheen

Made by the flame-like lilies, no longer proud  
to the sun,

But sinking in shriveled death,—and a  
white cloud gently veils


The heat and the hate of Apollo, and the  
fountains once more run;

All Nature, the Mystic Mother with the  
gladness of new-birth hails;—

There stands the spotless lily where the crown  
of the red one lies,—

Love has struck the symbols of Lilith,  
and Venus is no more queen!

*THE STRING OF THE ROSARY.*

RBUTUS came from out the moist  
earth peeping,

And then a violet and a Bethlehem star;  
And when a daisy smiled which had been  
sleeping

Down in the pines, where sheltered corners are,

The fields were hidden in a soft green cover  
And our whole world was Lady April's lover.

The lilacs burst and filled the air with incense

Then roses crowded in the way of June,  
Beauties well guarded by their thorns and  
leaves dense,

---

Ruddy in daylight, pale 'neath harvest  
moon;  
From pure white to deepest crimson ranging,  
In loveliness from bud to blossom changing.  
Then maples in the autumn! And the aster  
I saw last year its petals ruby red,  
Gold-hearted, aromatic; fast and faster  
The year sped onward to the years that  
fled;  
But gorgeous were the banners borne before  
him;  
And clouds took purple vestments to adore  
him.  
The last sad days were not so sad in passing,  
The barns were full, and hiding here and  
there,  
A late flower bloomed; and to the eastward  
massing



Against the wind, the cedar hedges were  
Green all the year, and greener in the winter;  
Them ocean gales could neither bend nor  
splinter.

These have their meaning; every month and  
season

Speaks to the Christian heart a tale of love;  
We, knowing this, in each may find a reason  
For tender thoughts for the dear Lord  
above;

Red roses say, "The Sacred Heart remember!"  
"Eternal life!" cry hedges in December.

Poor is the man who sees but earthly flowers,  
Hears only earthly voices in the trees,  
And finds no symbols in the star-lit hours,  
Though his great wealth be blazoned over  
seas;


Poor! if he in the cloud sees only vapor  
And in the sun a larger useful taper.

Fair silver lines the cloud of sternest duty,  
    There is a glow on all our week-day deeds;  
Through all the year there runs a string of  
    beauty  
    Like the bright chain that holds the  
    rosary beads.

Life is not hard seen through the Resurrection;  
Nature, read rightly, helps us to perfection.

*THE ANXIOUS LOVER.*

(J. K. E.)

 SAW a damsel in a sombre room,  
Laid low in beds of purple violet,  
And pale, sweet roses scenting all the gloom;  
And then I thought, This is a gray sunset  
Of days of loving life. Shall he who stands  
Beside her bier, in sorrow for his love,  
Be first in Heaven to clasp her gentle hands  
To bow with her before the Lord above?

If love can die, let my heart be as cold  
As Galatea's was before the words  
Of the warm sculptor drew it from the mould  
And made her hear the sound of singing  
birds;

Love's sunshine and love's shadows are they all

Like April sun and shadow on the earth?

If love can die at sight of funeral-pall,

Would I had strangled it in its sad birth!

I know that the sweet spring will surely go

And leave no trace, except a blossom dry;

I know that life will pass as passes snow

When March winds blow and river-floods  
are high;

I know that all the maples on the hill

That fire the air with flame to ashes burn;

I know that all the singing birds that fill

The air with song to silent dust will turn.

Oh! love, my love, can it, then, ever be

That thou or I may gaze upon love's death?

That thou shalt some day sad and silently

Look on me dumb and cold and without  
breath?

Or shall I see thee lying white and wan,  
Like yonder damsel in the flower-bed,  
And only say, "My lady sweet has gone;  
She's lost to me; she's dead—*what meaneth*  
*'dead' ?*"

If love can die, then I will no more look  
Into thy eyes, and see thy pure thoughts  
there,  
Nor will I read in any poet's book  
Of all the things that poets make so fair.  
If love can die, the poet's art is vain,  
And thy blue eyes might well be blossoms  
blue,  
And thy soft tears be only senseless rain,  
If love can die, like flowers and soulless  
dew.

I care not for thy smile, if love can die:  
If I must leave thee, let me leave thee now.

Shall I not know thee, if in Heaven high

I enter and before the Holy bow?

Shalt thou not know me when before the throne

Thou, white-robed one, shalt enter into  
light?

I cannot think the Lord of Love has sown

His precious seed to make but one day  
bright.

Would I were dead, if death could be the end

Of all the loving that makes life so fair!

If love can die, I pray the sun may send

An arrow through my head, that death  
may tear

Away my soul, and make me soon forget

The fair, sweet hope of love's eternal day,

Which yet might die like purple violet

Strewn on the robe of her that passed  
away!

Ah! love, my love, when I look in thy eyes,  
And hear thy voice, like softened homely  
bells,

Coming to one who long has sent up sighs  
From foreign lands to be where his love  
dwells,

“The earth may crumble, but our love and we  
Shall live forever. This is true!” I cry.

My heart lifts up itself in ecstasy.

“Life were not life if our great love could  
die.”

*BETWEEN THE LIGHTS.*

A PHANTASY.

(TO JOHN J. STAFFORD.)



IN the cool, soft, fragrant summer grass,  
In trembling stalks of white-tipped  
clover,

I lie and dream, as the shadows pass  
From twilight's gates the cloud-bridge  
over.

On the other side, dim other side,  
Lie starlight gloom, and the night's chill  
wind.

Calm Eve comes forth, like a timid bride,  
And with shaded eyes looks on mankind;—  
She looks at me, as I lounge and dream;



---

She builds in the sky for my delight  
High-towered castles that glow and gleam  
Redder than snow-crests in North fires  
bright.

She shows me Ceres in corn-flowers blue,  
And Pluto's bride on her throne below,  
And Helen fair, to her lord untrue,  
Anguished and wailing in deathless woe;  
Gold arabesques on a jasper ground,  
Gray cameo-faces, cold and grand,  
Puck and Peas-blossom hovering round  
Oberon and his glittering band.

She changes her aspect, opal Eve!—  
Shows me a plain near the walls of Troy,  
Where shepherds' sheep in low shrubs leave  
In haste, to gaze on a bright-haired boy—  
The boy is Paris, he cometh out,


Out of the city, strong-limbed and fair.  
Live I in future or past? I doubt  
Am I Greek shepherd or gay trouvère—  
  
Who lieth, dreaming perhaps of her,  
CEnone weeping for him, forlorn?—  
Who strives with the plaintive lute to stir  
Some love in a Norman heart of scorn?  
Out of a balcon of hues that glow  
There leans a lady against the sky;  
Her robe is bordered with pearls, I know,—  
Pearls on her neck with her pearl-skin vie.  
  
There stands a lover in gay slashed hose,  
With a bright plumed hat and purple cloak,  
He calls her “lily” and “damask rose”;  
Even in cloudland they wear love’s yoke.  
Bold knights ride forward on prancing steeds,  
King Arthur’s court, with Sir Launcelot—

Presto! 'Tis Syrinx among the reeds,  
Apollo seeks her, but finds her not.

I am so idle in summer grass,  
I cannot think for scent of clover;  
No moral I find in clouds that pass,  
I only know that sunset's over.

*TO A POET IN EXILE.*

(J. P. C.)

“ CANNOT sing!” the grieving heart-  
harp sighed;

“The breeze that touched me lives beyond  
the foam.”


A rough wind struck it, and its voice replied  
In sweeter music than it made at home.

O Sorrow, Sister Sorrow, thou dost give  
A richer tone to poets when they cross,  
To seek Eurydice, from where joys live,  
And make them godlike through thy gift  
of loss.

*THE COUNTRY PRIEST'S WEEK.\**

I.

(SUNDAY.)

IRST Mass is over, and the farmers go  
Along the roads, where budding  
bushes grow,  
A sense of peace upon them,—“Winter wheat  
Is fair to middling;”—as they meet and greet,  
Their scraps of talk are not so full of gloom  
As on the other days;—the wind-flowers bloom  
In the sparse clearings, where the oaks are thin,  
Among the puff-balls and the acorns;—in  
A sheltered place arbutus shows its crest  
Near where a meadow lark begins her nest.

---

\*Suggested by Annette von Droste-Hülshof's “Des Alten Pfarrers's Woche.”

There is a stillness in the sunny air,  
There is a quietness,—a softness rare—  
The quality of Sunday—rest for all,  
Except the priest, who answers to a call  
From one in illness; last night till the moon  
Late silvered the young wheat as light as noon  
He heard confessions; betimes again to hear  
The contrite tales he rose this morn; from near  
And far the farmers gather;—fasting still  
He greets them kindly, as he mounts the hill;—  
  
He sees some neighbors as they churchward  
pass,  
Who take his horse; and then he vests for Mass;  
What time the farmers in their Sunday coats,  
Talk of the weather, and count up the votes  
For and against the party of their loves;  
Their wives,—a little solemn in tight gloves,—  
Exchange receipts and wonder if the beef

Will burn at home, and tell of joys or grief,  
A recent death, or that a batch of bread  
Came from the stove as light as thistle-head.

The Mass begins; the sad melodeon wails;  
The Kyrie is sung; uncertain gales  
Bear up the Gloria;—why will she who takes  
The treble part raise high her painful “shakes,”  
While alto, organ, and the bass profound,  
Each independent, makes discordant sound?  
Veni Creator! Then the triumph comes!  
The practice of a month that grand burst sums;  
The basso roars, the treble, soaring, flies,  
The alto trembles, sings alone, and dies.

On bended knees the old priest waits until  
The warblers in the loft have worked their will;  
“Veni Creator!” cry the four at once,  
And then the basso (sure the man’s a dunce!)

Repeats it and repeats it; then in turn  
The treble and the alto show they burn  
To rival his outpouring, till the priest  
Is faint with weary waiting; and the feast  
Of music falls in fragments in the air,  
And somehow there is gladness everywhere.

A sermon on the duty of the time,—  
The Easter time,—some Scriptural words sub-  
lime  
Of love and hope,—a wish about the pews  
Whose rent is rather backward,—certain views  
About a dance announced for Tuesday night,  
In which plain speaking points the course of  
right;  
The young folks look ashamed, the elders nod;  
“True to your Faith and you’ll be true to God,  
Which grace I wish you all.” A little while,  
And all the place is radiant; angels smile.



Our Lord descends; the church is glorified;  
The roughest face in some new flame is dyed;  
The lights before the altar leap with joy,  
The candles glow,—and that stout, red-cheeked  
boy

Who holds the censer (to-morrow he will  
plough)

Is rapt, seraphic, for a moment now;  
The gray-haired priest is mightier than kings;  
And this poor chapel, lacking many things,  
Is grander than a palace: let them sing!  
(Discords forgotten)—words of seraphs ring!

The Mass is done,—“Father, the banns next  
week,—

Don't call them loud!” And then the widow  
meek,

Approaching, stills the laugh; she comes to  
seek

Another word of hope; her sad eyes speak  
Of tears unshed,—“Father, a Mass?” she asks;  
Then come some farmers, full of daily tasks,—  
“Shall the new schoolhouse be of brick or  
stone?

Who will haul wood on Thursday? Is it known  
Whether the railway passes Riley’s field?—  
But up the women glide—then the men yield.

A hasty dinner and a sorry one—  
(“The roast, you ought to know, is overdone.  
And who can keep potatoes on the fire  
Without their growing soggy? Thus the ire  
Of her who guards the threshold of the priest  
Takes form in words,—“You might have come,  
at least

Before the pudding burned; they chatter so!—  
These country louts; they’d stop it if you’d go

And let them bite their tongues;—the gravy's  
cold")—

He eats and says no word;—the plaint is old.

And this grim lady (you have met her, sir?—  
This guardian spirit?—here's success to her!)  
Creeps to the door because a ring is heard;  
“His Riv'rence is eatin',—can't you leave word?  
No; you can't see him! Come to-night, I say.—  
You can't?—well, try to come another day.”  
The door is slammed before the pastor can  
Arise and stop the too persistent man  
Who, when the supper waits “will come  
again,”—

The guardian knows the wicked ways of men!

The Sunday-school—some words the priest  
must say

To little children; and they must be gay,  
Yet with instruction fraught,—a picture here,  
A medal there, a smile for eyes that peer  
From golden curls, a joke for that small boy,  
A warning word for this: here, smiling coy,  
The maidens come,—the altar needs repair,  
And they will do it; then, with taste and care  
He steers his way between the factions who  
Hate all the good that other factions do.

Vespers and Benediction!—and the day  
Of faith and love and all the various play  
Of life in many tints, draws to its end.  
The people in the sunset homeward wend,  
And, in an hour, stern Martha lights the lamp—  
("You've caught a cold, sir, standing in the  
damp")—

The pastor takes his chair. ("Old Clarke is  
here

About the money,—supper's spoiled,—that's  
clear!

And Mary Devlin wants,—Pat's at the door,—  
I'll leave this house!—warning I give once  
more!")

The crowded day is gone; the lights are out,  
The pastor rests at last; beyond a doubt  
Pat Smith will come no more this night, at  
least!

And balmy sleep steals o'er the weary priest.  
The day is done, well filled with duties, too,  
And kindly thoughts and acts and sayings true.  
He dreams a golden dream of heavenly rest;—  
[Ah, broken dream! from out the lowering west  
A man rides hastily, as the rain falls thick:  
Three miles away, for Patrick Smith is sick!]

## II.

(MONDAY.)



HE early Mass is said, the sunlight  
glows

With tinge of red; the pastor homeward goes,  
To pause a moment, just to say a word  
To that old woman, whose sharp tongue,—he's  
heard,—

Has made much havoc all the previous week,—  
“You ask forgiveness, yet you evil speak,”  
He says, with sternness; “at each morn you  
rise,

In spite of wind and weather,—turn your eyes  
In fervent ecstasy; you beat your breast,  
And have not love;—of what avail's the rest?”

Abashed, the ancient dame, in shawl of black  
And veiled bonnet, sighs at this attack,  
And hastens off, with bobbing courtesy short,  
To face the parish with an altered port;  
And he goes onward through the tender green,  
Following a furrow in the changing sheen  
Of winter wheat; the rain has passed away,  
The new world glitters in a radiant day,  
“Which God has given us!” he, reverent, says.  
“How glad and glorious, O my God, thy  
ways!”

’Tis Monday, and his sermon’s in the past,  
And in the future,—freedom can but last  
A day at most; no name is on the slate,—  
There’s an account, but those small bills can  
wait;

He scans the slate again; no letters mark  
Its ebon surface;—there is Susan Clarke;—

He ought to see her, she's been ill, they say;  
'Tis but a mile; he'll take it on his way  
To "Jack Maginn's,"—forgive the "Jack" you  
can,

A priest's a priest, and yet a priest's a man.

For "Jack Maginn," now "Father," if you  
please,

Lives just four miles away, where willow trees  
Bend o'er a garden, bound by mignonette,  
And with a duck pond in an arbor set:  
Here rose and cabbage in the summer time  
Elbow each other; in another clime  
Parochus learned to garden, by the sea  
(There's shamrock under glass, kept carefully!)  
In far-off Ireland,—(of his heart the pulse!)—  
The only thing he can't grow here is *dulse*.

There was a time when "Jack" was young  
and gay,—



A player on the cornet, so they say;  
He plays no more, at which his friends  
rejoice,—

A seminarian with a tenor voice,  
Who sang "The Minstrel Boy" and "Tara's  
Harp";

But now his voice is just a trifle sharp  
In the upper notes; one wouldn't care for  
that,

If in the lower it were not so flat.

A man, like grave St. Paul, he holds no thing  
Of boyish days,—except that he will sing.

The "Jack Maginn" of '60 is no more:  
The cares of office, and the burdens sore  
Of all the burdens of his little flock  
Have changed him greatly,—yet there is a lock  
That holds a secret portal, and the key  
Is kept by him who journeys cheerily

Across the fields; behind this portal, bright  
Are memories, and jokes, that saw the light  
When Russell ruled at Maynooth,—of the  
young

And gifted cantors he had oft outsung!

The horse is stabled, and the old friends meet.  
'Tis Monday,—you would know it as they  
greet;

“The ducks are in the stove, you’ll stay and  
dine.”

“Who talks of dining; it is not yet nine.”

The arm-chair’s out, the grate is made to glow,  
And wreathes of fragrant smoke soft upward  
blow;

Now joke meets joke:—away, dull care, away!  
For this is Monday, and a little play  
Is good for men that think; the Office said  
As far as possible; no work ahead.

Cigars and pews, the Bishop's health,—who  
spoke

At certain funerals,—(all of this in smoke,)—

The sermon of last Easter,—Hogan's boy,  
("Gone to the bad,") and Jimmy Quinlan's joy

Over the rise in hay,—of course, the school;

And both agree that editor's a fool

Who in his leader took the other side

In Irish politics,—the man that lied

In last week's *Tribune* on old Froude's new  
book;—

And, for the season, how well all things look;

"Delaney and his tricks!" he died at sea,

Of yellow fever, caught in steerage,—he

Spent all the voyage among the sickened crowd

In the foul steerage; he was never cowed.

"Ordained a month!" And may he rest in  
peace!

A knock is heard; and now the talk must  
cease;

The ducks are ready, and a cook will wait  
No more than time or tide, if men be late.

“The ducks are roasted.” What!—already  
noon!

For once, at least, the diners dine too soon,

Nor is the day without its argument,

A wordy war,—the smoky air is rent

With *pros* and *cons* upon the Moral Law,—

“Père Gury says”—“In printing there’s a  
flaw;”

“Yes!” “No!” “De Lugo!” “St. Alphonsus!”

“Good,

Yet there’s a gloss.”— “No casuist ever  
could—”

“What nonsense!” “On the *Index*!” “In  
*Le Pape*

De Maistre says—"Come, come, I'll take  
my nap,

If you mix history and 'Moral' so!"

And then our pastor thinks it's time to go.

But not till twilight where the wheat is sowed  
Turns green to gray does he take to the road,  
Refreshed and strengthened for the coming  
week,

When life and death shall meet, and he shall  
speak

Most august words; now at his horse's head,  
He quick remembers what he might have said.  
"De Lugo settled *that!*" These words he hears  
Hurled from the darkness, as the gate he nears;  
He pauses, tempted; then into the gloom  
Rides, laughing at the tempest in the room.

## III.

(THE REST OF THE WEEK.)



HE swift week passes, each recurrent  
day

Brings a new duty,—lights and shadows play  
Across the pastor's path; no rest he knows;  
He feels the touch of joys, the weight of woes;—  
On Tuesday, Burke the carpenter lies low,  
The scaffold broke, a sudden fall, a blow;  
From life to death the robust man is struck.  
Happily for him there's neither fate nor luck;  
He bows his head unto the chastening rod,  
And, as a Christian, longs to meet his God.

Across the fields the anxious pastor speeds,  
Bearing our God, to fill the poor soul's needs,—

And when the rites are over, and have ceased  
The aspirations, and the soul's released,  
The family turn in hope unto their friend;  
"He's safe," the pastor says, "death does not  
end

Your life or his,—pray, pray, I pray you, *pray*,  
And you shall meet him in the Light of Day!"  
The candles fall upon the pallid face,  
The family kneel; about them, peace and grace;

The soft tears flow,—ah, not in wild despair!—  
There's golden hope; and why? "*The priest  
was there.*"

He only of all men can do this thing,—  
Tear from the mouth of death its poisoned  
sting!

Gentle he was,—but see him as he walks  
Quick by the side of yonder man who talks  
In maudlin nonsense,—angry is the word

He hurls upon the drunkard; who unheard  
Excuse scarce murmurs, cowed, if not con-  
trite;—

Our pastor can be wrathful in the right!

On Wednesday there's a wedding,—nuptial  
Mass,

And then a warning word for lad and lass  
The pastor speaks; a red-hued barn is cleared  
For the great feast, a pine that late upreared  
Its green boughs to gray skies is stripped and  
bare

To decorate a bower for the pair  
Above the board, whose oaky firmness groans  
Beneath the beef and fowl,—soon to be bones,  
When hearty appetites shall circle round,  
And cider sparkle, and tongues be unbound.

The farmers gather with their gifts and jokes,  
And from the village come a crowd of folks,



Friends of the groom, (who keeps the village  
store,

And stands uneasy, one foot on the floor,  
Bashful, yet bold )—a strong hand lifts the  
latch,

The priest has come,—’tis said he made the  
match,

“And many others” add the chatting groups,  
“All good ones, too.” How coy the fair bride  
droops!

Who’d think she’d helped with careful hands  
to make

That center of her thoughts, the bridal cake?

The pastor reads these homely thoughts and  
lives,

And into homely topics gaily dives.

“The bride looks well,—a little girl at school,—

Baptized her, sir. But, come, the feast grows  
cool!"

And there's a rush, subdued a trifle, too,  
When 'tis remembered that a "grace" is due;  
He blesses the repast,—that farmer who  
Sat down too soon, now rises, almost blue  
With sudden flush; a laugh begins the chat;  
A pleasant hour; the pastor takes his hat:

Full well he knows the meaning of the floor  
Smoothed well and swept, and that behind  
the door

The fiddles wait; and young folks, too, the  
chance

Of cutting capers in a country dance;  
How they protest! He must not go so soon,—  
He'll wait till dark,—'tis easy—there's a moon  
This time o' month,—the family all swear

They'll keep him by main force; but he must  
tear

Himself away; he's not by this deceived,  
He fancies that the young folks look relieved.

On Thursday there's the funeral,—sad and  
slow

The neighbors drive their buggies, and talk  
low

Of Wednesday's wedding, and the widow's way  
Of getting on; the pastor bids them pray  
For death in grace; "good deeds, not cease-  
less plans

For money-getting, leave the pots and pans  
And constant worry over kitchen stuff,  
And pray each day; O friends, 'tis well enough  
To live by bread, but not by bread alone,  
Up, souls and hearts!" he cries, in pastoral  
tone.

New resolutions move the serious crowd,  
Our Lord descends, and every head is bowed;  
God help the widow!—kind thoughts turn to  
her,

Born of his words, for well our priest can stir  
The simple chords in honest hearts like these,  
As well as quote St. Thomas. Through the trees  
To the near graveyard goes the mourning  
train,

And prayers are fervent, though the soft  
spring rain

Falls on the clay that waits the sacred dead  
And touches with its brilliants each low head.

On Friday childhood claims him, for he must  
Go to the school,—such visits rub the dust  
Of daily struggles from him,—now he smiles  
And tells fine stories; many childish wiles  
Are used to keep him there, the children know

That while he stays the hours will not go slow:  
And when he's grave, the children love him  
still,

For, if he scolds, some pocket will he fill  
With last year's walnuts, which will soothe  
the heart

That in the "First Commandment" got a smart.

And here comes Tom Malone,—his student  
boy,

To read a page of Virgil, and with joy  
To hear the news that he may go in Fall  
To some great college,—this will be a call  
Upon the pastor's purse, but only one  
Of many such. No wonder that the sun  
Shows white on his best cassock, that the books  
He loves are bought infrequent, that he looks  
A little rusty in his Sunday dress,  
When claims, like Tom's, on his resources press.

But God is good!—and Tom is grateful, too;  
He'll stay all night and many a chore he'll do.  
On Saturday, the sermon looms aloft,  
A cloud upon the day,—alas! how oft  
The pastor wishes it in retrospect.  
At last 'tis done; (next week he will select  
From out a certain drawer his Easter one,  
Quite new, beloved brethren, for 'twas done  
In eighty-two; 'twill fill the reverent fold  
With holy awe; 'tis new because 'tis old!)

The church is chill; confessions must be heard.  
The hour comes, it cannot be deferred;  
He sits in patience, as the sun recedes,  
Absolves the sinner; and the beggar feeds  
With words that he alone, of all his kind,  
Can use to cleanse the heart and soothe the  
mind,  
And force repentant sinners to atone

With power that rests on no mere earthly  
throne;

At night he waits, to hear the good-willed  
men;—

His week has ended,—to begin again.

And thus from year to year his good deeds flow,  
A crystal river, blessing as they go.

How many flowers spring up, like violets  
In hidden clumps,—how many wild regrets  
Are made content,—how many a sinful heart  
Grows white again,—and so he does his part  
In the great tragedy of human life.

A simple priest; and all his days are rife  
With simple deeds; yet when the trump shall  
ring,

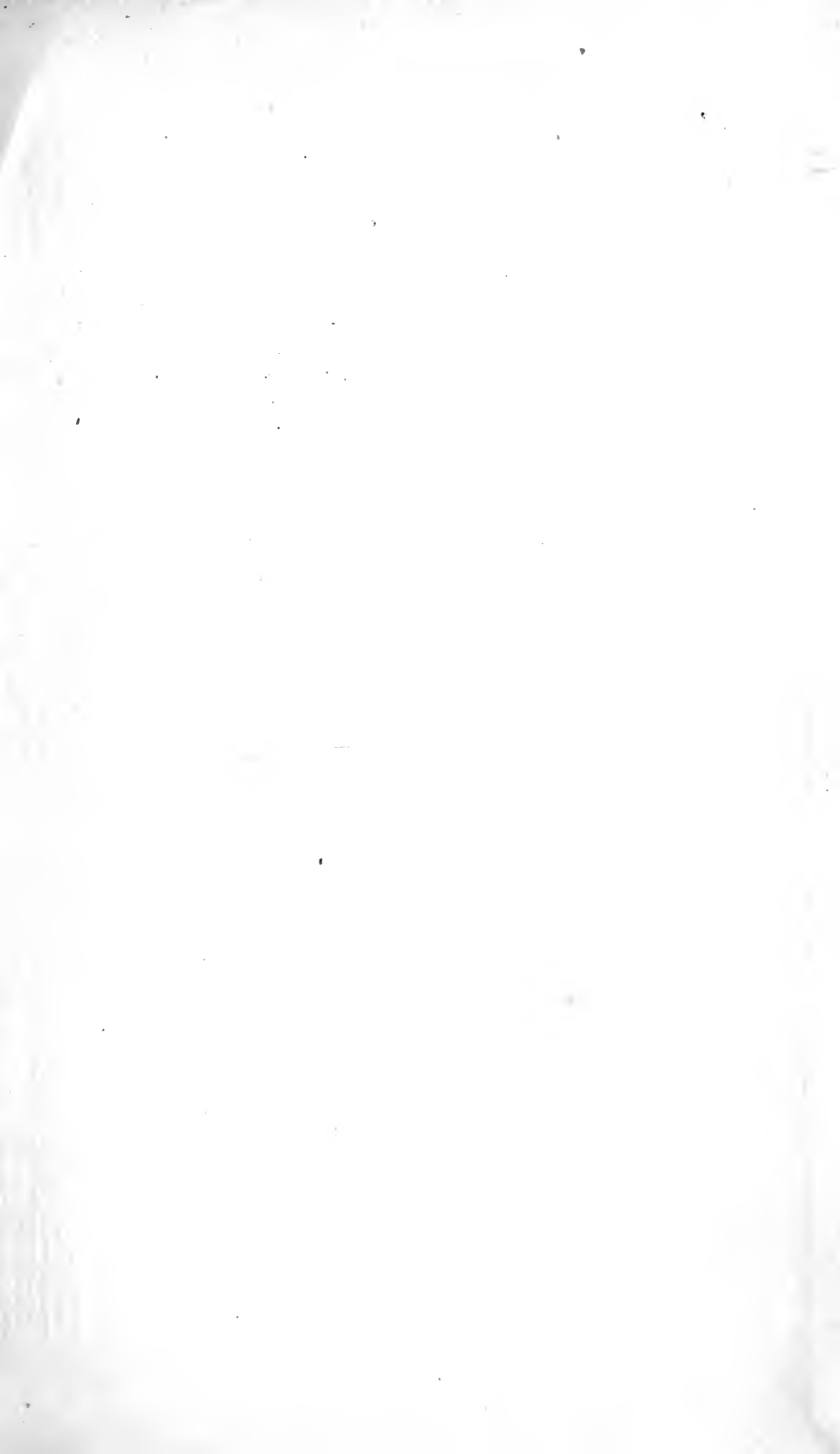
None more rewarded in Christ's choir shall  
sing.











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